

It is a partnership, and we have very little trouble with administering this program. And I think I can identify one or two States where there may be a problem, but I think, working again with the local education agencies, a majority of them would prefer to do it the way we have been doing it.

Dr. MARTIN. I think that would be peculiar to the Southeast. Having worked out of Washington on a national scale, the rest of the country I think would feel otherwise about that.

Mrs. GREEN. How many positions are now vacant in this regional office?

Dr. MARTIN. As I mentioned in the paper, we have three who have actually been selected, and are just awaiting a reporting date, which we can't give them, of course, at this time. We have a number of other vacancies.

We have a total of 26 vacancies uncommitted right now.

Mrs. GREEN. Out of 71?

Dr. MARTIN. Out of 71, yes.

Mrs. GREEN. And how many can you hire, if you can find the personnel?

Dr. MARTIN. We can hire up to the full amount, can't we?

Mrs. KOONTZ. Well, under the freeze—

Mrs. GREEN. Under the freeze, can you hire any of the 26?

Dr. MARTIN. Under the freeze, we cannot put anybody on.

This contracts officer I mentioned is now with NASA. It would just be a lateral transfer, but they still tell us we cannot put him on until the freeze is lifted.

I don't understand that, myself. I am going to be in Washington next week, and I am going to try to find out why.

Mrs. GREEN. One final question.

From where you sit, what would be your reaction to transferring the enforcement of the Civil Rights Act out of the Office of Education and into another department, or into a new department under HEW?

Dr. MARTIN. Into a new department under HEW?

Mrs. GREEN. Or entirely out of HEW into the Justice Department.

Dr. MARTIN. Well, I personally believe that it is impossible to separate programs from enforcement. As much as I would like personally having to do it, because they are now doing it in Washington in the Office of Education, I do think that enforcement of the Civil Rights Act could be accomplished much better at the regional level, with regional people, who are southerners, if you please, I mean who understand the mores of the South, who are educators, who understand what the school systems are like, how they operate.

And I have the firm conviction that it would work more successfully from the regional office than from the Washington office.

I have expressed that a number of times, and we have been told that it will be decentralized. When, we don't know.

Mrs. GREEN. In your judgment, you do not see any conflict when an office is charged with the responsibility of offering educational leadership and at the same time has to perform the role of an enforcement agency.

Dr. MARTIN. Well, it is a necessary evil. Let's put it that way, because if it is transferred to the Justice Department or to HEW or to