

putting people out in the field and having to go through them to Washington. That is the concern.

Mrs. GREEN. Are you expressing a concern over the total decentralization plan or just that part regarding the programs for the educationally deprived?

Dr. ARMSTRONG. I am not expressing a concern of my own. I am expressing the concerns of those people who think that they are going to have to go through another layer, unless we are equipped to do the job in the region, and that means staff and the money to do it.

Mrs. GREEN. The answer I am trying to find here is whether your remark on page 5, on decentralization, applies to the total decentralization program.

Dr. ARMSTRONG. Total. It is across the board.

Mrs. GREEN. You refer to the cutback and the freeze. What about travel funds?

Dr. ARMSTRONG. Well, they have been restricted, I guess, 50 percent or better.

Mrs. GREEN. Is there considerable travel involved in your job? What do you do? Do you travel?

Dr. ARMSTRONG. Yes; 70 percent of our time is supposed to be in the field. We don't have much of a job in the office. Our job is in the field.

Mr. MARTIN. Madam Chairman, I guess I should react to that.

We have just received word recently that we will have to take a hard look at our estimates for the year, that the overall U.S. Office of Education funds have been cut 50 percent, all of the administrative appropriations are being watched next week, and that is one of the main points on the agenda.

We don't have a figure, as yet. We have not reached a figure as to what we can expect. We have just been told to reassess our travel plans and cut them down where possible.

Mrs. GREEN. Expressing a personal view, I would prefer to see a cut in the travel funds to the moon and places beyond, and less of a cut in this corner of the planet.

It would seem to be that it would be tragic indeed if the cuts have to be absorbed by the Department of HEW and the Office of Education, and I for one will push for economy on the \$20 or \$40 billion raise to the moon program and a few others, and hope we can concentrate on making life here a bit more meaningful to our own people.

Dr. Boldt, on the student assistance programs this committee is concerned about the delinquency rate on collections.

Let me ask you, though, from the standpoint of the Office of Education, and the standpoint of Congress, what is the timelag between the enactment of the law, the beginning of the school year, and the moment when the procedural manuals or the handbooks get into the office of the student personnel man at the college or university?

Dr. BOLDT. Madam Chairman, this has been quite a difficulty with the colleges.

For example, the present manual has been in revision for over a year, and I was in Washington several months ago, and was given a draft copy of the new manual, which was supposed to come out, at that time, next month, which is still not out. And I asked if I couldn't have a copy of this draft, and we came and got permission here to duplicate that, and we have given them to all our colleges.