

in the State departments of education and the U.S. Department of State, in the terms that they are funding elsewhere also. So in this case, we are a catalytic agent, using this as one illustration of our activity.

Mrs. GREEN. When we set up a separate laboratory that is not responsible to the Federal Government, and across the country employees in the labs have the highest salaries of anybody in education; what does this do, in terms of potential conflict? And to whom do the people in education then turn for counsel and guidance?

I really have a deep concern: Are we building something into the educational system as a result of congressional action that someday we may really regret?

Dr. HOPPER. You are quoting some figures which I am unaware of.

Mrs. GREEN. Well, let me quote them, then.

The regional director here for Atlanta gets \$20,000. Your State superintendent, your chief State school officer, gets \$22,000. In Florida, \$24,000. In Alabama, \$10,000. In Mississippi, \$16,000. In South Carolina, \$15,000. In Tennessee, \$20,000.

And I believe your salary is \$30,000, which is even higher than the Commissioner of Education in the Office of Education in Washington, D.C.

What kind of a superstructure are we building into the educational system, and to whom are people going to be responsible?

Dr. HOPPER. The figure you quote for my salary is just a bit high. I wish it were that.

Mrs. GREEN. I have \$30,240; is that not correct?

Dr. HOPPER. No, that is not correct. I have provided a statement, I think, to the committee \$28,800.

Mrs. GREEN. Do you have an expense account with that, then?

Dr. HOPPER. Expenses are paid, yes.

Under our contract with the Office of Education, an average of \$16 per diem.

To continue to respond to your question, the Office of Education did develop guidelines for expenditures by or allowable under the contracts to operate the regional laboratories.

Under the Office of Education guidelines, increases may not be provided of more than 20 percent of what a person has been earning previously. And having come to the laboratory in July, I would be in no position to discuss having knowledge of action prior to that time with regard to the development of guidelines and the salary structure.

When I was contacted concerning this laboratory, it was stated very frankly that the board of directors had established the salary schedule in accordance with the leadership structure in this three-State area, relating the laboratory director's salary to that of the State universities, and scaling the other positions within the laboratory comparable to university activity. Having served as dean of the University of Alabama, and knowing something of this, my general understanding was that this salary schedule was in line and consistent with the institutions in this area.

If this is to be a leadership kind of operation, one in which we derive new opportunities, we provide for greater change, then I don't believe any but the ablest kinds of talent can be provided in this case.