

Mrs. GREEN. With regard to the regional laboratory directors, out of 20 that I have here listed, 10 receive salaries higher than the Commissioner of Education. Now, what does it do to our main structure if we build this kind of a superstructure?

Dr. HOPPER. Well, I think one of the responses is my being in this laboratory, since I was in the Office of Education and found this to be an attractive kind of opportunity.

I would raise questions about the salary level of the staff members in the Office of Education. Of course, it is within the civil service system. Certainly the number of chief State school officers in this land that make more than the Commissioner of Education raises an interesting kind of question, whether it be the State of Michigan, Pennsylvania, New York. You can go all around.

There must be at least, just offhand, 10 or 12 State school officers who make more than the U.S. Commissioner of Education.

Mrs. GREEN. I only find six. The chief State school officers in this region, all of them, are below.

Dr. HOPPER. Below what the Commissioner of the U.S. Office of Education makes?

Mrs. GREEN. Yes.

The only States that pay more than the Commissioner of Education are: Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Michigan.

Dr. HOPPER. Most of them are much lower, and, of course, some of them are elective offices, some of them are without professional requirements. They vary in their requirements for the position.

On the other hand, one might look at State university presidents. Certainly there we get another view of people. It raises a series of questions.

Mrs. GREEN. I believe, though, when you take these people in the regional laboratories that are being set up, and in the other departments, then it seems to me—

Dr. HOPPER. I would dare say that the laboratories would have—well, to put it bluntly—I don't know whether I would have joined the laboratory program from the Office of Education without a salary increase.

It is customary in all walks of life to receive a salary increase, and as long as a reasonable one, which does not involve any contrary forces, then I think in our free enterprise system, most of us are inclined to—

Mrs. GREEN. I am not raising any personal issue.

Dr. HOPPER. I understand; there is a matter of principle here.

Mrs. GREEN. What we are doing in terms of building superstructure, and to what extent are we really weakening the authority that for instance the regional director would have under this decentralization program.

It seems to me that his authority is weakened, if he has a salary, for example, of \$8,000 or \$9,000 less than yours.

We pass legislation in the Congress to strengthen the State departments of education, on the principle that the leadership must come from the local and the State level, and the Federal Government can at best be a junior partner in it.