

No. 2. These people have always been polite, courteous, good listeners, and have displayed an attitude of helpfulness.

Conferences set up and conducted by the U.S. Office of Education for the purposes of disseminating information and exchanging ideas relative to the title have proved to be very helpful.

It has sometimes been difficult to secure adequate copies of printed materials, such as copies of the act, of the guidelines, the regulations, and the audit guide, or to learn if and when such copies would be provided by the Office, while we sometimes receive more copies than we can use of publications which we have not requested, such as "A Chance for a Change," and "National Conference on Education of the Disadvantaged."

Some written communications from the Office have not been as specific as I would have liked; in my opinion, being subject to different interpretations.

Answers to correspondence have sometimes not been as prompt as I desired.

Expenses in connection with conferences have not always been paid promptly by the Office.

The changing of guidelines, application blanks, and instructions for completing application blanks during the course of a given fiscal year have presented some minor problems.

One of my areas of concern is the late date in a given fiscal year on which firm figures are available for the amount of money which may be used by the various local educational agencies.

Another concern is the altering of legislation affecting title I operations for a given fiscal year after much of the fiscal year has passed.

I would suggest that legislation and appropriations be established well in advance of the fiscal year in which they are to become effective. This would, I believe, make for better planning, more effective programs, and wiser use of the money available.

Mrs. GREEN. Thank you very much, Mr. Beemon.

May I say that in all of the hearings we have been conducting the point which you raised in your last paragraph has become abundantly clear: that Congress is still operating on the time schedule which existed prior to a major involvement by the Federal Government in education. I think that Congress has not taken notice of the problems of the school year in authorizing legislation or appropriating the funds.

Mr. BEEMON. I appreciate your recognizing that fact.

Mrs. GREEN. At the beginning of your statement, in paragraph 2, you cite things that specifically were done under title I. If the funds from the Federal Government went to the States in the form of just general funds, do you think the innovative programs which you outlined would have occurred in Georgia?

Mr. BEEMON. Well, perhaps not in the same way. It would depend, of course, on the State guidelines that would be developed, as to whether encouragement was given to extended services—say, in welfare agencies—as well as in educational levels.

I think we have had perhaps a lack of initiative on the part of many local school systems to spend title I moneys in the areas of welfare, because they have not seen that that was perhaps an educational service, and perhaps they continue to look to the Department for that.