

As to the richer counties not being penalized, they are not being penalized, but they are helping the poorer counties to come up to the State level.

Mrs. GREEN. I must say that my daughter-in-law could not secure a babysitter for part of the year for what is being spent for a full year on the education of children in many States.

Do you all agree that Federal aid is just as essential? Is there any disagreement on that?

Mr. McLAURIN. As long as you leave it in the State, it is.

I think it should be left in the State to use for an educational program, rather than send it to Washington and get it back, because there is a lot lost between the time it leaves the State and the time it gets back.

Mrs. GREEN. What do you mean, "a lot lost"?

Mr. McLAURIN. All these kickbacks. There is a percentage on handling the money, so when it goes from the States to Washington—

Mrs. GREEN. I hope the National School Boards Association is doing some research on this. I have heard statements that out of every dollar 40 cents does not get back.

I think all of these studies and surveys show that the cost of the administration of these school programs is under 2 percent.

Mr. BREWER. I would think it is 40 percent, or somewhere near that. I would think that some of the programs in Washington are very good, and others are not, under the present setup.

Mr. ACREE. I am sure I speak for a great majority, if not all, of the school officials in the 196 systems of the State when I say that we do recognize the need for Federal funds that are properly allotted, and properly used, in keeping with what has been presented to you this morning.

Of course, ideally, with such a thing as Mr. McLaurin referred to—if the money did not have to go there and come back—we could possibly save some of that 2 percent, but to that point we would hope we could receive some of these State funds and that they would not be used as leverage or a whip.

Mrs. GREEN. Since you all are with members of school boards, may I say that I have welcomed what I seem to see in the National School Boards Association as a member of the committee, I look to the school boards across the country for much stronger leadership in educational matters at the Federal level than I think they have exercised in years past.

It seems to me that at least 10 or 12 years ago—I don't know, Jack, whether you agree or not—there was almost an emotional or an instantaneous reaction of the school boards against all Federal aid, regardless of what kind. There was not an objective analysis.

And I think this change in direction is something that we will look forward to. I am sure we will all benefit from it, because I agree with you that the school boards are closer to the people, and should be playing a very, very important role in planning legislation, evaluating it, and implementing it.

May I also say, Mr. Acree, that your brief will be studied with a great deal of interest.