

1. Consultants from the U.S. Office of Education, in many cases, have not been educators, and they have little knowledge of the problems that exist in trying to operate a good school program.

2. These consultants have not taken into consideration the problems that local school boards have in dealing with local people.

3. They have refused to talk to boards of education in the presence of representatives of the press.

I feel that these programs under the National Defense Education Act, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, and other acts administered by the Office of Education are excellent programs, and do much to raise the level of education of all students who participate.

There is a need, however, for adjustments in the law—and I am referring to title I—that will enable more schools and more students to participate. I feel that these programs contribute much toward equal educational opportunities for all students, regardless of where they live or what their social backgrounds may be.

I do feel very strongly, however, that control of these programs should be with local people, rather than with the Office of Education.

Mrs. GREEN. Thank you very much.

Let me turn to you, Congressman Erlenborn. Do you have questions?

Mr. ERLENBORN. I would take it from the statements each of the members of the panel have made that you are pretty well agreed that the receipt of Federal funds is necessary for the operation of your school districts.

My question is: Is this merely a monetary need? Do you feel that the reason you appreciate the receipt of the Federal funds is that you just need more money, and this is one place that you can receive it when it is difficult or impossible to raise these funds locally or statewide?

And I am going to make a pretty long question, here, but I hope it can be answered.

I think that I can put the question in this way: Do you believe in categorical aid? Do you believe in these programs, like title I or title III? Or would you be just as well satisfied or possibly better satisfied if you just got the money without the direction of the Office of Education or the Congress as to how you would spend these funds in specific programs?

Dr. WEST. May I reply?

I always like to think of the statements of the late and very distinguished Senator Robert Taft, who in my judgment shed a light that was characterized by equanimity, and I think this was quite evident in his attitude about Federal aid to education.

It was Senator Taft who said that there must be in America a partnership as among the local, the State, and the National level, insofar as education is concerned. We can never educate our people, otherwise.

As you remember, Senator Taft felt that some Federal control was necessary, but he said the country would make a great mistake if it ever came to the time that the Federal authorities would try to dictate the educational policies of the Nation.

I do not think, Congressman, that we would be true to the ideals of our profession if we thought purely in terms of the monetary.