

problems of the human condition and these are problems of spirit and value and attitude. We must carry out our "nuts and bolts" responsibilities and this we are doing. In addition, as individuals and as an agency of the Federal Government, responsible ultimately to the people, I conceive our task also as aiding the education community in the nurturing of whole persons of broad vision, humane sensibilities, and great hearts.

Thank you, again, for the privilege of appearing before you. I shall be very pleased to try and answer any questions you may have.

THE ROLE AND FUNCTION OF THE REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE U.S. OFFICE OF EDUCATION

By Peter S. Mousolite

The United States Office of Education will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 1967. For nearly 100 years it has rendered an important national service—that of gathering and disseminating educational information for the nation; offering consultative services to state, local, and institutional leaders in American education; and administering federal funds authorized by the Congress for designated programs to advance the cause of education.

The recent quickening of national interest in education, however, has given the office important new responsibilities in the administration of federal financial support programs and opportunities for leadership in the formulation of goals and their implementation. These are vital, both for the survival of the nation and for the advancement of those values of our civilization which are nurtured through education.

The regional offices are the antennae of the U.S. Office of Education. They feel the pulse of those at the grass-roots levels and provide, at best, the means by which the two-way communication system involving the central office and the schools and colleges at the local and state levels can be implemented.

The idea of the regional office is not new. In its embryonic form it consisted of services provided by specialists from the Washington office to state educational agencies and independent schools by mail or by travel throughout the country prior to World War 2. With the passage of the Lanham Act the US Office was called upon to provide consultant services to the Federal Works Agency in the program for construction of school facilities for new communities of war workers. This necessitated, for the first time, specialists who were continuously available in a certain geographic area. Later, the same kind of need developed for the disposition of war surplus property; in the administration of the school assistance program for federally affected areas; for the higher education titles of the NDEA (Titles II—Loan Program, IV—Graduate Fellowship Program, V(B)—Guidance and Counseling Program, and VI—Language Development Program); and, most recently, for the Manpower Development Training Program.

Specifically, what are some of the functions of the regional representative and the services his office provides? Region V will be used as an illustration, although the other eight regional offices have similar roles and offer similar services. The difference is in the size of the regions, which often plays an important part in the variety and extensiveness of services requested.

The office of Region V is located in Chicago, headquarters for many national organizations, publications, news services, and international activities. In the five states comprising the region, there are approximately 340 institutions of higher education, including eight of the Big Ten. In addition to Chicago, the region includes some of the largest cities in the nation—Cleveland, Detroit, Milwaukee—and hundreds of school districts.

INFORMATION NEEDED

There must be provided, therefore, a varied and extensive information service about education in the United States, about federal programs or proposals under consideration, about international or foreign service programs in education. Many requests for information are by telephone. Requests by mail are equally numerous. It is interesting to note that an increasing number of requests are made in person, which brings the individuals to the regional office.

This type of activity, together with the increasing cooperation of the regional representatives from the various agencies in the regional office in attempting