

Mr. QUIE. In the higher education area there is no State organization which has the relationship of a State department of education with the local colleges, be they private or public, as the State department of education really has a main responsibility for elementary and secondary education and has close connection with every local school district.

Now if you strengthen the regional office in elementary and secondary education comparable to the higher education, won't this in effect weaken the State departments of education?

Dr. MOUSOLITE. No, I don't so. Of course we have not gone into this yet. I don't think it can be because the duties and responsibilities of the State department of public instruction are certainly spelled out, and we certainly would not interfere with these. We could come in wherever we were asked. We would attend conferences, we would go out with their permission to visit the local school districts. We in a sense would be an arm of the State department of public instruction.

Mr. QUIE. You mean you would not go to the local school district without the State department knowing about it and being fully informed?

Dr. MOUSOLITE. I was talking about procedures.

Mr. QUIE. Under title III, as an example.

Dr. MOUSOLITE. Yes. May I say when I first came out here in an acting position, I could not visit the schools unless I had the State department of public instruction's permission. When I became acquainted with Mr. Bartlett in Michigan, for example, he said, "Forget about it, you go out whenever you feel that you get a request to come out."

May I say that sometimes I perhaps feel that the immediacy and urgency of a situation demands certain actions, but we certainly will abide with these particular rules and regulations whenever possible.

Now in higher education incidentally, Mr. Quie, there is of course the State commission.

Mr. QUIE. Yes; that is on the facilities.

Dr. MOUSOLITE. Where they have two functions to perform. One is to determine which of the program proposals that come to them could be accepted and, second, how much money is to be given to each of these in terms of availability of funds and so on.

Now I see a person on my staff, Miss Marian Proesel, who I think is just tops in this area with HEFA. She has been a help in aiding these State commissions, and I think many of them do need help in terms of advice and consultation. She has gone to many of these meetings and has been of great help to them in the interpretation of rules, and the like.

Mr. HOSCH. Could I add one point on your point about decentralization? I think we have found through the years in many other programs besides education that there is a question of timing here as to when you can decentralize. I think it is an obvious point. When you are beginning a new program and there are areas and programs which need to be assessed, you need to hold decisionmaking at the central office level until such time the major policies have been decided upon. At that time, it is a little safer, shall we say, in terms of avoiding confusion, to decentralize decisionmaking because you have a policy base on which it is possible to act.