

for several years has been in favor of financial aid to school districts in which federal government installations affect population and revenue.

Another concern that the National School Boards Association has about federal educational legislation is that oftentimes programs are adopted and funded for too short a period of time. Recognizing the legal restrictions upon appropriating money ahead of time of use, the National School Boards Association feels that steps should be taken to insure that the need for long range appropriations might be met. One of these would be careful consultation with the Bureau of the Budget about future financial needs of federal education programs which have been inaugurated. The NSBA feels that the involvement of local and state policy making groups in the gathering of the necessary information to be presented to the Bureau of the Budget and to the Congress would do much to overcome the problems of short range appropriations. Otherwise, programs instituted one year sometimes have to be curtailed the next year for lack of funds. In addition, there actually have been instances where programs authorized have not been funded in time for them to be put into effect by local school systems. Schools plan programs and adopt budgets before July 1. Yet, in some instances, federal programs are not funded until after the school years begins.

One of the more serious concerns that the NSBA has about educational legislation which has been passed by the Congress during the 89th session is that many programs were implemented too rapidly. Inadequate planning time for local school systems to prepare to put the programs into effect has caused many problems, including inability to adequately staff the programs. These problems at the local level have increased our attention to the role of the federal government in education.

There also has been a failure to consider state and local administrative costs in the funding of programs. While it is true that some effort has been made during the past year to include these costs in funding, a serious situation still remains. Certainly, consultation with local and state educational agencies would have helped avoid some of these problems.

The *final* concern which I will mention here today which has serious implications for federal legislation is the provision of financial assistance directly or indirectly to non-public schools. Such assistance violates, in the view of NSBA, the principle of church-state separation. This assistance to non-public schools is a matter of practical concern as well, because public schools will surely be weakened if multiple tax supported school systems are permitted or encouraged to develop. The NSBA, in its testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee on March 10, 1966, emphasized these points. The NSBA firmly believes that some provision must be made for the church-state question to be resolved by the Supreme Court of the United States so that the Congress may be guided in passing future educational legislation.

The National School Boards Association has worked for many years with other national organizations and with the United States Office of Education on educational matters. NSBA feels strongly that established organizations and school boards must be consulted constantly about pending proposals for all educational legislation. Bypassing or failing to consult fully with these groups will result in a lack of understanding and support for educational proposals. NSBA particularly hopes that the lay point of view, as represented by the school boards of America, will be solicited and utilized because school boards are close to the educational needs of the community. We stand ready to assist in providing representation on advisory committees and other planning bodies.

The public school boards of America, united in the several state associations and federated into the National School Boards Association believe "Education is the Bulwark of Freedom." They believe our universal system of free public education is literally the nation's first line of defense and the greatest constructive force in the position of the American people for the preservation of their freedoms and for advancement of the democratic way of life. They hold that public schools will keep America strong and free if America's public will keep the schools free and strong. And firm in this conviction, the NSBA works constantly to strengthen local boards of education and supports the strengthening of state departments of education so they may carry out effectively the functions which are reserved to them by the United States Constitution. The NSBA firmly believes that it is better for local citizens to control the educational program than it is for a remote bureaucracy. In this way the needs of the local community can be better met and the schools will remain flexible in their approach to educational problems.