

Again as I have heard people discuss this at the various State association meetings that I have attended, I think this is the one area where you have a great deal of concern among the State people that it may mean a bypass of education at the State level.

If this is possible, then our organization would be in opposition to such extension of authority to the regional offices. The 1966 delegate assembly reaffirmed its position on governmental participation in education as reflected in the following statement:

America's education—a local function, a State responsibility, and a Federal concern.

Certainly we believe that all moneys that come from the Federal Government to the local should be channeled through the State department of education, and that the State department of education will be weakened and cease to have a viable function in regard to many of the programs for the school districts unless we continue this procedure.

Now, the fourth matter of interest to NSBA is the role the U.S. Office of Education may have in promoting plans for nationwide testing such as the proposed national assessment program that is presently sponsored by the Carnegie Foundation and others.

The implication of such testing programs are serious and require thoughtful study by all those who will be affected—school boards, administrators, teachers, and others. While there is no appropriation at the present time in the educational legislation passed during the last session of the Congress, this is no guarantee that appropriations previously asked for in the budget will not be requested to be reinstated in the future.

I would say again as I have heard board people talk that the very State meeting in this area where they have a great deal of concern, certainly it is true that representatives of educational groups have been invited to the meetings of our national assessment issues.

We believe, however, that any such program ought to have a wholehearted active support of the groups that are professionally and legally responsible for public education.

Now, the fifth point, NSBA has an interest in the role of the U.S. Office of Education in relation to the development of curriculum materials. If the U.S. Office of Education has a role in this area, then the people who are working in the field of education ought to be consulted about developing plans, and private interests which are not directly responsible for education should have an incidental role in the development of such materials.

You have a lot of people raising questions concerning the governmental subsidization of the development of the curriculum materials by some of our major enterprises.

The National School Boards Association, as the representative of the local board and of the State association, has a continued interest in the development of Federal education legislation. During the past years we have testified on the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, on the National Teachers Corps, on judicial review.

We have developed a series of policies concerning the beliefs of the association about the principles underlying Federal aid to education. We have supported in the past certain kinds of categorical grants in which the Federal Government seeks to promote certain programs.