

Mr. QUIE. May I ask you a question about specific legislation now? In title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, it provides that the funds be made available even if they attend parochial schools; however, any program is administered by the local public school.

The same way with title II. There are schoolbooks, mostly textbooks, and library materials available but in this case the property belongs to either the local public school or in at least one instance, the State department of education, which is a public entity.

Do you have any objection to that system of Federal assistance to the children of the private schools?

Mr. ACKERMAN. Of course, I think we need to support and supply education to all youngsters. On the other hand, I think one has to be very careful in this particular area.

Are you going to raise the question "Are you going to support public schools or are you going to support all private schools"? The minute you begin to proliferate your support and let it move in the direction of the other, I think you are going to weaken the public school system, and this is what concerns me.

It concerns me not only from what I hear in the United States but in the many opportunities I have had to visit schools in other areas, in other countries. Where you have the development of a strong private school system, you always find your public school system eventually being weakened.

Mr. BRADEMAS. I believe you just used the phrase "The minute you begin to move in the direction of providing assistance to private school children."

Mr. QUIE. I think you used the word "children."

Mr. BRADEMAS. You mean to say you would oppose school lunch, school milk programs for children in parochial schools, as an instance of moving in the direction you feel would be dangerous?

Mr. ACKERMAN. Well, the comment I made was that I think one needs to be very careful.

Mr. BRADEMAS. No question about that, but that is not my question. You see, we are engaged in making significant distinctions on this committee. We really do not survive by sort of cloudy generalizations. We have to decide what happens in the bill.

What do you say on that kind of a question?

Mr. ACKERMAN. The minute you begin moving in on one, where do you stop?

Mr. BRADEMAS. So you would oppose school lunch programs for children in parochial schools?

Mr. ACKERMAN. I would oppose using Federal funds for private schools.

Mr. BRADEMAS. Well, that is not my question. I myself do oppose Federal grants to parochial schools but that is not the question that Mr. Quie or I are putting to you.

Mr. QUIE. We oppose it and have the same concern you do, but in drafting the legislation we felt that we found a means where we could assist the children of the private schools, stay within the Constitution, leave the jurisdiction up to the public schools as you want, and try and find this common ground where both the private school people and the public school people could work together.