

and local educational agencies under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

This important piece of legislation has had a profound impact on the educational system of this Nation. Programs conducted under its authority have reached, directly or indirectly, nearly every school-child and teacher in the country.

Last year, President Johnson noted that "Educational deprivation cannot be overcome in a year. And quality cannot be achieved overnight." But I feel we have come a long way in our efforts to provide high quality educational opportunity for all.

First of all I would like to comment on title I of the act.

We have recently completed a study of the first year's operation of title I of the act—a study drawn from the reports from the several States—of each State's experience. It is clear from this study that there has been very wide participation in the benefits available under that act.

Some 25,000 local educational agencies were eligible to receive funds, and 17,481 of them actually participated. We have given you in the appendix A of this testimony a breakdown of all of the major categories of expenditure for the fiscal years 1966 and 1967, so that you can see exactly the kind of things to which this money is going.

One of the potential problems in administering a program of this size is that communication with teachers and administrators of the State and local level is a massive enterprise in itself. Trying to get the proper policies set forth by the Congress carried out has been a major job for us.

We have worked hard on this. We have set up a number of special arrangements to communicate at the State level, to help the States communicate at the local level. We have special arrangements in being for interpreting the program in the 21 largest cities—working with the State departments when we do that.

We held a conference last July to which we invited some 500 educators from all over the United States to meet here in Washington to examine how the program was going. Mr. Perkins was able to give considerable time at that conference himself. The President of the United States attended it, as did the Vice President. It was, I think, a most successful affair and resulted in a good deal of useful communication about the operation of title I. We are submitting a copy of the report of that conference for the record here in this committee.

(The report referred to follows:)