

The response was dramatic. Based on a first-year appropriation of \$17 million, the States applied for funds to cover some 1,800 new positions. Twenty-five percent of the funds and 27 percent of the personnel were expected to work in the planning and evaluation areas.

The States recognized the need and took steps to meet it. However, by the end of the fiscal year, the States had amended their applications to reduce the planning function to 19 percent of the funds and 20 percent of the positions.

For fiscal year 1967, the applications have reduced this function still further: less than 18 percent of the funds requested, and 14 percent of the positions budgeted are to be used for planning.

The State departments of education have not lost interest in planning. Far from it. Other concerns were more pressing. In order to secure funds authorized by some 15 pieces of new Federal legislation before the end of the fiscal year, they had to mount new programs immediately. There were other pressures as well.

Local education agencies had urgent needs for the improvement of instruction. The State agency had to improve its general administrative capacity. The capacity to deal with the masses of educational data emanating from all sources had to be developed.

The growing responsibilities thrust on them by the growing Federal programs of aid to education require all their existing resources, and more. In a sense, the States cannot afford to plan under title V as it is now set up; yet, they cannot afford not to.

If State and local educational agencies are to continue to carry out their present responsibilities, if Federal programs are to meet the needs Congress intends, and if the Nation's schools are to continue to meet the demands made of them, systematic planning must be encouraged.

It is for this reason that we are proposing an amendment to title V of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, to authorize State agencies to establish and improve their programs for educational planning and evaluation.

Our proposed amendment would authorize \$15 million for fiscal year 1968 to initiate a 5-year program of grants to the States to assist them in the establishment of programs for comprehensive, systematic, and continuous planning and evaluation of education at all levels.

These programs would be designed to assure the achievement of opportunities for high-quality education for all segments of the population throughout the State.

Seventy-five percent of the appropriation would be allotted among the States to support State programs. The other 25 percent of the appropriation would be held in reserve for special projects provided in section 524.

Any State desiring to participate in the program would designate or establish a State agency to submit an application to the Office of Education and to administer the program within the State. Higher education programs may be included in the planning and evaluation system if the State includes higher education as a part of its application.

If higher education is included in the program, the State may designate a separate agency to deal with higher education, but it must