

It seemed to us that this represented a rational basis for making such a change. The argument you are making can be made, however.

Mr. GURNEY. Mr. Chairman?

Chairman PERKINS. Mr. Gurney.

Mr. GURNEY. Let me sort of make a suggestion as part of my question.

It is evident to many of us here that the Teacher Corps idea is not very popular on Capitol Hill. That was evident last year, and I doubt whether the popularity will increase very much this year.

Admitting that there is a real need in this area of training teachers to teach the handicapped, as you point out, but also listening to some of the conversation and give and take here, quite obviously there has been training and advance in this area and it has been done apparently rather well by some institutions.

Why doesn't the Department of Education come in here proposing to expand these already successful ventures into this field rather than sticking with this idea of a Teacher Corps which is not appealing to Congress?

It would seem to me that that would be a much more simple approach to it, instead of taking the program from where it is now and shifting it over into the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

This is obviously a sort of dodge and will be regarded so by Congress. Why not approach it in a way that will be palatable to Congress and get on with your job?

As I say, it is sort of a suggestion. If you care to answer it, that would be fine.

Mr. HOWE. Let me make a couple of comments, Mr. Gurney.

First of all, we are quite aware that the Teacher Corps has been a controversial issue in the Congress. It would be hard to be unaware of this.

The fact is, though, that it has been voted by the Congress and initially funded by the Congress on two occasions.

Therefore, it has seemed to us that although there was controversy about it that there was also support for it.

Secondly, we have a situation now which we have not had before in discussing the Teacher Corps with the Congress. That is that the Teacher Corps is in operation by direction of the Congress and by appropriation of the Congress, and that we have the results of actual work on the part of Teacher Corps members in local school districts.

It is our hope that the Congress will examine what is now going on in the Teacher Corps and the feelings of superintendents of schools and State superintendents, Governors and others, who have had contact with the Teacher Corps and its actual operations.

We believe that if we look at the merits of this in terms of what is going on in the schools, many people in the Congress will be more interested in it than perhaps they have been when it was a theoretical matter not yet in operation.

It has begun to accumulate a very, very useful record.

Mr. BRADENAS. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

I follow what my colleague from Florida has just observed. I would like to say that there is at least one member of this committee who very strongly supports the Teacher Corps.