

Chairman PERKINS. You may proceed.

Let me say to all the members that I will stay here as late as it takes.

Mr. ERLNBORN. I notice we now have 20 regional educational labs; is that correct?

Mr. HOWE. Yes, sir.

Mr. ERLNBORN. Does that now cover every area of the United States or are there some areas not yet covered by regional labs?

Mr. HOWE. The reason I am hesitating is that we are attempting to deemphasize somewhat the idea of regional coverage in the sense that although we have drawn boundary lines on some maps to indicate the areas where regional labs may be primarily in operation, we see these labs as organizations which, as they do good work, will certainly influence areas outside those we have defined.

In a broad sense we want to draw on educational leadership in most portions of the country but we aren't trying to distribute these strictly on a geographical basis.

I realize that may not seem exact, and it isn't exact.

To answer your question directly, the area that is not, so to speak, directly involved at the present time would be Hawaii and some of the possessions.

There has just recently been started a nucleus of a laboratory organization in the Washington, D.C.-Maryland area. We have what you might describe as fairly effective coverage to the degree that coverage is a portion of this program.

Mr. ERLNBORN. So that you would say that at this time practically every place within the continental limits of the United States is served by some regional lab?

Mr. HOWE. Yes. I would state further we do not intend for the moment to launch additional regional laboratories.

Mr. ERLNBORN. I notice, also, we have one national educational laboratory presently. Are there others that are contemplated?

Mr. HOWE. This really isn't an exact definition, this idea of a regional versus a national laboratory because the so-called regional education laboratory in New York, working on the problems of education of deprived children, will have results that will apply to Los Angeles and Chicago just as well.

We have in this one national laboratory that you refer to an organization concerned with a special topic, the education of children in their early years. It is made up in an unusual way, of a group of university people located in different parts of the country but coordinating their activities.

In this sense it is different. It doesn't have as much regional concept about it. This is why we call it a national laboratory around a particular problem.

At the present time we have no proposals for starting additional organizations of that kind. I think over a period of years it may well be worth looking at additional enterprises of that national laboratory variety.

Mr. ERLNBORN. As I understand it, you have rather broad authority to contract with such agencies within the limitation of your authorization and appropriation: is that correct.

Mr. HOWE. Yes, we do.