

supplementary centers that have this planning concept that you outlined so well, but that there should be room within the context of title III, whether operated by the Federal Government in the final signoff or operated by the States in the final signoff, for the unusual school district which crops up with something totally new that doesn't fit the plan.

Education benefits from these kinds of little rockets that come up from time to time. I always like to have that window open for title III.

Mr. STEIGER. Mr. Buchmiller's statement and his presentation, and I attach myself to it, really, says that the direct Federal to local administration of the existing title III program bypasses fundamental State responsibility and thereby sets a questionable precedent.

I think that the Office of Education should give a great deal more thought to the way you go about approaching the problem that you are trying to get at in title III. I really do question whether or not it is appropriate as you now have done it.

Let me get back to one further point.

Mr. Commissioner, you made a reference to consolidation earlier in which you said—and I think I would agree—most States that have gone into the consolidation of school district programs have ended up perhaps with educationally and financially sounder districts.

My question is whether or not the present operation of title I doesn't in some cases almost tend to discourage the State from getting at consolidations by the moneys given to smaller school districts? Does that tend to go in another direction which may not be a terribly good one?

Mr. HOWE. I would assume that the eligibilities for title I funds of school districts that consolidated would add up to what they had separately.

Wouldn't that be true?

Mr. ESTES. That is right.

Mr. HOWE. So there would be no question of financial losses. There might be a question that the small separate districts like so much to administer this money that they don't want to give up the chance to do so. That sort of prerogative question might be enhanced by the availability of Federal funds, but it seems to me that is a very slim distinction.

I don't see that title I would have that effect, particularly.

Mr. ESTES. In fact, the States have considerable discretion in this particular area. According to our annual evaluation report from the States, one of the main reasons for rejecting the proposals from local school districts was the fact that they did not meet the criterion of size, scope, and quality.

So, in effect, some of the smaller districts with fewer pupils did not have projects funded. As a result, many of them consolidated or combined with other districts in order to provide these services.

Mr. STEIGER. Thank you.

Chairman PERKINS. Are there further questions?

Mr. QUIE. Yes, I have further questions.

I want to get back to the Teacher Corps.

When I asked this question about who was going to pay the salaries of the corpsmen while they were in local public schools, as I re-