

Would you approve of such guidelines and do you think you could do it?

Dr. MARLAND. Speaking now as a member of the Council in replying to that question, which I think is my primary role here, the Council would say that this is a tendency toward general aid, and they would tend to say that the present categorical restraints on ESEA are valid and are productive, and are efficient and should be retained.

I believe that as a superintendent of schools, if it were just I alone that were concerned with this, I would like to see a little more fluidity in the use of the funds, but not absolute freedom of general aid at this stage.

Mr. QUIE. It would not necessarily be general aid. You still have the category that it would have to be for the educationally deprived.

Dr. MARLAND. But you are saying that the judgment would rest at the local level as to how it would be used. That tends to be in the direction of general aid. I think that our Council would hold that at this stage of our evolution on this subject they would recommend Congress hold to the present restraints to assure that that money is spent where the law meant it to be and have universal guidelines that tell how to do it.

Mr. QUIE. Do you think we have reached a point along the road where we could move another step closer to general aid, but still make certain that the Federal money went for the education of the deprived children?

Do you think school superintendents could make that decision wisely?

Dr. MARLAND. I do. I think over time much of this will happen. I hope that over a period of years there will be a gradual increasing of the liberalization of local board of education authority to spend these moneys wisely, just as they do other moneys, local moneys, tax moneys, State moneys, foundation moneys, the income coming to boards of education, broadly speaking, not being categorical, except for these Federal programs.

I think over an evolutionary period of 4 or 5 years there should be a relaxation of the categorical nature, yes, sir.

Mr. QUIE. Do you suppose that all the school superintendents of a State could help a State commissioner of education to also make that determination so that the Federal money will be based on educationally deprived children? Or do you think you would still have to use an income formula to get the money to the State for distribution among the schools accomplished on educationally deprived guidelines by themselves?

Dr. MARLAND. I think you still have to have some kind of a universal formula. Probably the best one at the moment on which we have information is the economic level.

Mr. QUIE. So the money would have to come from the State based on an economic level, and you could not distribute it within the States without using the economic level, but you say you could administer it within your school system without the economic level?

Dr. MARLAND. If it were distributed to the States on that basis, especially on the basis of increased rather than decreased resources, it could be done judiciously within the States, yes.