

Substantial sums of ESEA money right now are going to the salaries of paraprofessional people in Pittsburgh, teacher aids, assistants of all types. This makes the teacher more productive, by and large. I think it is difficult for the Federal Government, however, as you have noted, to say to all States, "Liberalize your certification standards," nor should I think they should be totally set aside.

I think they should be made more liberal. I think the Teachers Corps arrangements are not at this time running into any major difficulty on that issue. I think the Teachers Corps program with a master's degree easily fulfills most State requirements and is not a major obstacle.

Mr. GOODELL. That is the point I wanted to make. We have inserted here the idea that the Teachers Corps was a factor in avoiding certain certifications and it doesn't seem to me that was the objective and certainly isn't what the Commissioner is talking about now.

I applaud the objective, but I think it gives too much credit to the Teachers Corps to say that that is what it is trying to accomplish or is accomplishing.

Mrs. KOONTZ. Mr. Goodell, certainly I could agree with you in some aspects but I think we would be remiss, as people in education, if we fail to say that we believe that some form of certification, whether we call it by this name or not, is absolutely necessary to safeguard the interests of the American public.

If the importance of educators in training the minds of our young people has not been overestimated, then I think as a profession we owe it to the American people to assure that at least there have been some basic training before a person is employed to do this big job.

However, what constitutes that training I am willing to change my mind about. What I am suggesting is that because we have held to this view of certification for what certification is now is no reason that it will be this, because we are changing a great deal. This is what we have needed.

I would ask, as a Government, that money be funded to programs that will allow us to experiment with plans over a time long enough to actually evaluate the results, and that it not be considered the permanency that apparently people feel must be attached to everything in order to allocate funds for it.

Maybe the Teacher Corps is not the answer, but give us a chance to try it to see.

Mr. GOODELL. I come back to the point. I understand what you are saying but I am not at all sure that the Teacher Corps is trying to do or experiment in the area we have mentioned here, on the much greater flexibility in certification.

In view of what the Commissioner and Dr. Marland have said, these Teacher Corps participants are going to get certificates, they will be better qualified than most others, perhaps, to get certificates.

Then to say that this is a program that will help loosen up the certification requirements and experiment in this stage, I think is contradictory.

Mrs. KOONTZ. No, Mr. Goodell, this is not contradictory. I wish everybody understood these problems as much as you apparently do. But we have a problem of convincing people where the local decisions are being made.