

Mr. CHRISTIAN. For review and recommendation.

Mr. GOODELL. What has been your experience on the action of the Office of Education following your State recommendation?

Mr. CHRISTIAN. I mentioned in my testimony that in the majority of the cases they approved the recommendation of our agency, but in some cases they went beyond our recommendation and approved projects that we had not recommended with local agencies.

Here, in our judgment, this was not good, because we felt that there were projects that exceeded what they had approved, and, further, we thought there were further plans in the local agencies and the State agency that would take care of this innovation rather than the one that was approved.

Mr. GOODELL. To what degree do the States initiate applications under title III?

Mr. CHRISTIAN. We have helped plan in our States nearly all of the projects that have come up, with the local agencies, and then reviewed them and submitted them up.

Mr. GOODELL. I mean to what degree has your State tried to initiate projects under title III for application?

Mr. CHRISTIAN. We can't initiate them.

Mr. GOODELL. Why can't you?

Mr. CHRISTIAN. The local agency must initiate them. We are to review them.

Mr. GOODELL. Do you say you are isolated from your local agency? Why can't you talk with them about the possibility of what you would like to see done and help them develop applications?

Mr. CHRISTIAN. This is the very point we are making. If you will invest authority in the local agency, we can, with some certainty, carry out what you are trying to state, to be sure that the local agencies work with us in planning for the overall State. That is what we are asking.

Mr. GOODELL. I understand that you would like to have it required that they do that, but why can't you do it under present circumstances?

Mr. CHRISTIAN. I just mentioned if we did, and then they have the authority to exceed our recommendations and pick out a project.

Mr. GOODELL. I understand that problem, but my question was to what degree do you work with the local agencies to help them develop applications on their own for title III funds?

Mr. PAGE. I would like to say that even though there are no administrative funds available for title III in Illinois, we have employed a director of title III with a statewide advisory committee for title III, and we do work with local agencies in preparing plans.

On the first cutoff date there were six out of eight projects recommended by the State department of the State of Illinois approved. Some of those approved were those that we said were not good projects that should be rejected by the U.S. Office of Education, and others that we did recommend were approved.

We have found that in many instances our recommendations have not been effective.

Mr. GOODELL. In this first go-around, I will stay at the general level. It appears to me, looking down the various recommendations you have made, among other things you would like to have overall increases in the State flexibility and discretionary power.