

funds. If you are forced to use these for title I projects because you are not getting the funds, you are really hampering the already overburdened regular school program, are you not?

Mr. PAGE. This is true.

Mr. CHRISTIAN. The emphasis on title I is on services and personnel in the categories, and if you do this the school systems try to comply by employing competent personnel, then find themselves at the tail end of the year not knowing whether they have a continuing appropriation.

They move those people into other categories in order to save them, or else dismiss them entirely. It makes it impossible to try to operate this program at the end of the year.

I think this is one of our basic needs, to have a continuing appropriation.

Mr. ERLNBORN. There are two parts to this problem. One is the authorization and the other is the appropriation. The appropriation is, of course, an annual process. Some people have suggested the authorization should be 3, 4 or 5 years. Some Members of Congress do not want to give up that amount of control, to authorize a program for that extensive a period of time.

Let me suggest this to you and ask for your comment.

We understand the present authorization will expire at the end of June 1968. If we were this year to consider a 2-year authorization for the 2 next succeeding years—in other words right now work on the authorization for fiscal 1969 and 1970—if we were to approve that this year we would then have a 2-year authorization which would give us closer control and yet do it sufficiently in advance so that you would know ahead of time.

Would this fit your assessment of the problem?

Mr. JOHNSTON. Basically this is our problem, because school districts need to know what they have. This year they should have known in April and May what they could have counted on, to plan for, to get the personnel and get the programs planned.

There is another basic facet to this, that in title I each local school district and each State department, by statute, have to make an evaluation of these programs. Basically, when you get a program where you don't know what you will have until January, and you attempt to staff it to carry it out, and then 4 or 5 months later have to attempt to make an evaluation is simply an impossibility that you are asking the school districts to do.

Mr. ERLNBORN. The second problem as I suggested—

Chairman PERKINS. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. ERLNBORN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman PERKINS. Mr. Gibbons.

Mr. GIBBONS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Christian, when, ideally, would it be best to get the Federal funds in there under title I of ESEA?

Mr. CHRISTIAN. Representative Gibbons, we, of course, would like a continuous appropriation of 2 years. We must, in order to make plans on the 1st of January, with the fiscal year ending on June 30, make commitments in order to continue these people.

Near the end of April and May these people will be lost to other States or services if they are not notified at that time. The way this