

Mr. FORD. On page 2 of the resolution, recommendation 15, Federal financing school construction:

We recommend the inclusion of substantial capital outlay of funds for public school buildings under title I of the Elementary-Secondary Education Act or some other appropriate channel.

If you were following this legislation last year, you know that some of us fought long and hard to increase the authorization in title III of this act for fiscal year 1968 by the amount of \$500 million. To this authorization was added section 134, which specifically provides that in parceling out this money the Office of Education will give special consideration to overcrowded schools, to local school districts that have demonstrated ability or willingness to support their schools, and inability to meet the needs of education, and to those schools that are suffering from antiquated and archaic buildings.

It is the first direct recognition in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, that Mr. Perkins long fought for, of the principle of support for school construction.

When I go back to your testimony, however, I find that you want to take title III and change this new thrust we have given it. You propose that the States allocate their funds on a statewide basis rather than on the basis of the specifics that we have written into the act.

How far do you want to go at the State level in deciding what kinds of projects should be financed under title III?

Mr. FULLER. Instead of the review and recommendation which has led to have almost disastrous results so far, we would have a State plan which would cause local educational agencies to transmit their projects, and the projects for supplementary centers to the State agency for approval.

That has not been done. That is as far as we would go.

Chairman PERKINS. The gentleman from New York, Mr. Scheuer.

Mr. SCHEUER. Mr. Page, how long have you had Headstart programs that were directed by nonpublic agencies in the State of Illinois?

Mr. PAGE. Would you repeat your question?

Mr. SCHEUER. My time is very brief.

Mr. PAGE. Since the origin of this act.

Mr. SCHEUER. A couple of years?

Mr. PAGE. Yes. I might say that a task force on education in the State of Illinois has recommended experimental programs that will be established by the State of Illinois to establish Headstart programs for all children, not just those in educationally deprived areas.

Mr. SCHEUER. The purpose of the act nationally was to provide this extra aid?

Mr. PAGE. This is true.

Mr. SCHEUER. You have had these projects, then, for a couple of years?

Mr. PAGE. That is right.

Mr. SCHEUER. Was I correct in understanding your testimony before that you have never phoned or written the OEO either in Washington or your regional headquarters to ask them the nature and extent of these programs?

Mr. PAGE. We have requested it in the State of Illinois, yes.

Mr. SCHEUER. Have you gotten it?