

We feel we are here to exercise an evaluation process, to change the law and refocus if we can do a better job. The Appropriations Committees tend to be dominated by the problem of the total budget.

Now, if you are going to turn your fate over to the Appropriations Committees without benefit of hearings or support from the legislative committee, you may find your case is rather disabled in terms of the amount of money you need or want. To put it another way, having come before our committee, having justified the present expenditure of money and urged a program, having had our committee act to improve the law, you are in a much better position, then, to go before the Appropriations Committee and say, "Now here we have made these improvements. We think there have been discrepancies and problems in the past. We urge early appropriation of the money that is needed."

You have, in a sense, advocates from our committee before the Appropriations Committee for the same objective.

I say this to you not that I do not welcome your response, but simply as information to you, first of all, as to what the realities are in the House of Representatives particularly, which is jealous of its appropriations power, and secondly, to make a balance of the comments made about how it would be good if we had a 2-year advance.

Chairman PERKINS. I agree with the statement made by the gentleman from New York. You have to face this thing from the standpoint of reality.

We are hopeful that we will be able to see the Appropriations Committee act early in the year, in February or March, or by mid-April under all circumstances. That would be, to my way of thinking, considering our legislative process, an ideal situation if we could extend an authorization here so that the Appropriations Committee would always have the authority to come along with an early appropriation.

I think that is what we are all working toward here. That is foremost in our minds.

Mr. PAGE. I think in our State, on a common school fund, we are having a problem right now in getting a commitment as to what the foundation level will be for the State of Illinois, with budgets being prepared and teachers negotiating contracts.

But it is important, whether it be the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, or your State programs, to know in March and April when these contracts are being negotiated. Teachers' salaries going up means you have to cut back in some other areas on the allocations which are paying the same salaries in the Federal programs as you do in the State programs.

Mr. ERLNBORN. Let me suggest at this point that I am aware of the fact that this committee should take periodic looks at this program in relation to the authorization. Would it not, however, be within this context proper for us this year to be considering the extension of the authorization for the fiscal year 1969? We are reviewing it now under a bill to authorize the extension beyond fiscal year 1968.

Chairman PERKINS. I am hopeful that the committee will approve an amendment extending the legislation to June 30, 1970. I expect