

this year to take a good look at the programs authorized and where appropriate to strengthen them, enact amendments to the legislation even though the authorization does not expire.

I think we can amend the act more effectively if the authorization extends into the future. We are not under pressure.

Mr. ERLBORN. My suggestion is that we extend it 1 year at a time, but do it a year in advance instead of doing it at the time the authorization is expiring and, therefore, withholding action by the Appropriations Committee on the appropriation.

Chairman PERKINS. Last year we were able to get an extension of 2 years, which got us until June 30, 1968, although I sponsored and worked hard for a 4-year extension.

Mr. SPARKS. Mr. Chairman, if we could get this 1 year of lead-time, we would be able to plan more effectively and achieve some of the things you ask for.

Chairman PERKINS. You have a year's leadtime this year.

Mr. SPARKS. Yes, sir.

Chairman PERKINS. We hope to keep it that way.

Mr. SPARKS. If we can keep it this way, we can move in and operate our program much more effectively.

Mr. ERLBORN. As I understand, the Office of Education, the administration, does not propose in the first session of the 90th Congress to come in with a bill extending the authorization.

Chairman PERKINS. Let me answer you by stating: First, when the bill was brought in here I stated publicly I intended to offer amendments extending the authorization.

Mr. GOODELL. I might point out that it is not going to do us very much good or you very much good if we authorize a year in advance and then pass a change in the law in September so that we have authorized funds for a year in advance and we change the allocation formula, as we did last year, change the rules of the game after your school year has started, which then requires the Office of Education to go back and redo all of the formulas and you may not hear until February or March again what your funds are going to be because of the changes made by Congress in the fall perhaps, in a continuing authorization here.

Mr. ERLBORN. It would seem to me that if, when we did adopt those amendments last fall, we had made them applicable to fiscal year 1968 rather than fiscal year 1967, everybody would have been advised in advance. There would have been time to draft new rules and regulations. This was our trouble, making them applicable in the school year already underway.

Mr. GOODELL. We would have some difficulty limiting the effect of all amendments to a year hence.

Let me raise another side point here. I think the ultimate solution to your problem, lead time, flexibility and all the other aspects that have been raised here, would be if we could reach a stage where we allocate a specific amount of money back to the States for you to use as you deem appropriate either through a form of tax sharing or block grants.

Once it was authorized, it would doubtlessly be authorized on a permanent or semipermanent basis. There would develop an obliga-