basis for compiling the grants. Our reason, of course—you could understand readily it would be quite advantageous to us.

Our people go to your State and to other States and in competition over the Nation with children who have—young people who have an excellent education basis. We need to do everything we can to improve ours. We are disadvantaged as far as the average income is concerned staying on the same basis. We feel that this type of approach would be near the same type of approach we use in distributing our own State funds.

It would be nearer on an equalization basis, on the basis of effort plus capability. We feel that if we could draw funds on the basis of the national capability, it would help us tremendously. The same equalization principle would apply that we tried to apply to our own State foundation program.

Mr. FORD. That is on the assumption that the only reason that some States fall below the national average is because they have a willingness to support their schools at the local level, but are totally without the resources to do it, and it presumes that the extra large expenditure by the States such as New York, Illinois, California, which are the leaders, is based on fact as other than a willingness to suport education at the local or State level.

Mr. SPARKS. I would say on the basis of our willingness plus as we apply to our local district, basis of the willingness in terms of our capability.

Mr. FORD. Does anybody else wish to comment on that?

Mr. PAGE. We will be one of the States that will get less of course. I do not know how much but we have no great concern with this formula because Illinois has demonstrated its willingness to support education and I do not think it is a major factor.

Mr. CHRISTIAN. Florida reaches almost to the average. It would make very little difference to us. We would favor a national average.

Mr. FORD. You are just below the breaking point.

Mr. CHRISTIAN. Just slightly below.

Mr. FORD. You have a slight advantage now but in 2 or 3 years——

Mr. CHRISTIAN. I expect we will go over the national average so it would not matter.

Mr. FULLER. Speaking for the background of the entire group it has long been the policy of the council that there ought to be distribution of intergovernmental funds for education with equalization at all levels.

In other words, the State officers generally approve of the equalization features of State systems of school finance which now distribute more than $10 billion a year to local school districts.

According to the policy of the chief State school officers, these systems would have an equalization factor in them, a fairly substantial one I believe. It has always been the policy, and I know of very few chief State school officers from any States that have opposed the policy to have the national funds also exhibit an element of equalization quite substantial as among the States.

Mr. FORD. Did I understand you to say that your formula accepted that principle with respect to all intergovernmental funds for the support of education?