

react rather than act. They too seldom have the opportunity to assume the initiative.

Thus the proposed planning measures would strengthen the hand of the States and local school systems. Having the resources to plan, they would be able to formulate their own educational goals and decide upon those they want to meet first.

Then they would be in a position to choose among the many Federal programs available to them. Moreover, once developed, State and local educational plans would have the added advantage of allowing for a coordinated use of resources. Comprehensive plans would readily reveal where resources were most available, where local funds should best be used, where State funds would be most applicable and where Federal programs might be appropriate.

We are rightfully concerned today with building a more effective Federal-State-local system. I believe that the concept of creative federalism is of very great importance to the future of this Nation. But to create the new relationships envisaged in that concept is an exacting task.

The comprehensive educational planning proposal before you is a major step toward making "creative federalism" a working reality.

Another major advantage which could result from passage of these provisions is more adequate coordination between the various educational levels and agencies existing within the States and metropolitan areas.

Currently there exist within most States preschool and elementary and secondary education programs, vocational educational schools, junior colleges, colleges and universities and business schools and technical institutes, adult education programs and assorted other educationally related endeavors. This variety has both advantages and disadvantages. One advantage is the diverse educational and training programs which offer opportunities in keeping with the varied needs of our population.

But such diversity sometimes leads to duplication of effort and waste of resources. An attempt to identify the purposes of each of the various educational programs and coordinate their functions would simultaneously preserve the benefits and reduce the disadvantages of diversity.

This bill seeks to strengthen the planning function where the major legal responsibilities for education reside—in the States and local school districts. Our tradition of State control and local responsibility has many advantages upon which we wish to capitalize. This bill contains nothing which would require a State or local school district to participate.

It is a program which provides for voluntary State cooperation. It would enable these agencies traditionally responsible for education to plot better the course of their educational programs, to allocate their resources more effectively, and to assess their progress more accurately.

Mr. Chairman, in addition to myself, Commissioner Howe and my other associates are available to the committee for any questions which you or your colleagues may care to pose.

Chairman PERKINS. Thank you, Mr. Secretary.
Mr. Daniels.