

Mrs. GREEN. Does title III bypass the State departments?

Commissioner HOWE. I would not say that title III does bypass the State departments. I would say we are bringing title III in closer and closer alinement with State department interest and activity in those funds and the administration of it has shown that States have more and more participation over the past years.

Chairman PERKINS. Mr. Reid.

Mr. REID. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I certainly would like to thank the Secretary for coming up here for a visit this morning.

Mr. Secretary, I would like to add one philosophical and perhaps a practical question as well. I am increasingly concerned about the danger that some of the youth of America may feel or in fact may be shortchanged in the ghettos in our big cities.

I am concerned about cutback in variable CAP funds of about 50 percent. That leads me to this question. The committee worked out some approximate figures on the comparison of the 1968 authorization in the budget request, in the legislation you are testifying on this morning.

The authorization for title I, according to our figure, is approximately fully funded, \$2,441 million whereas there is a budget request of \$1,200 million. To put it another way, the budget request is approximately 49 percent of the authorization that the Congress would permit.

The total under this bill that you are requesting from the budget standpoint is \$1,673 million versus a potential authorization of \$3,141 million.

My question, against this background, why are we not trying to fully fund title I in those States that might be prepared to have the capacity and teachers to move toward—forward and is the budget request a flat figure or can you raise it?

Secretary GARDNER. It is a flat figure. We would not be able to fully fund this in certain States without doing it in all. We would have to go the whole hog. I mean we would have to decide to do it totally as a formula process. But basically this goes back to the long and difficult, painful process of making up a budget and examining it and the kind of tradeoffs you have to face if you have budgetary constraints and a great many worthy programs and the figure which we came out with was the result of this long and very conscientiously pursued process.

Mr. REID. Mr. Secretary, I appreciate the candor of your response. I have noted your comments about creative federalism in the sense of priorities. Is it not, speaking in your capacity as an educator, possible to consider cutbacks in foreign subsidies or possibly a stretchout in space as being of lesser national imperative than a cutback in title I in our schools and would it not be reasonable to suppose that the Congress and the administration—possibly your department—should fight much harder for the funds because I think a cutback in this area would be a serious mistake if we are to move forward?

Secretary GARDNER. This is a hard question for me to answer. You know me well enough to know what my own commitments and convictions are. I cannot regard myself as an objective judge of national needs when I am so deeply involved in one aspect of it. I do believe that the process works with reasonable fairness.