

recognize that we do. So far as the difference, particularly in title I, is concerned between the 1968 authorization and the 1968 budget request, I recognize that the figure of \$1,200 million is in part an overall project beyond the reach of your office. But if it were not for the very vital need to do some budget balancing or to pare expenditures, would you see the 1968 budget appropriation matching the 1968 authorization?

Secretary GARDNER. I find that is a very hard question to answer. It is so outside the frame in which I have had to think these things through that it is very difficult.

Mr. DELLENBACK. Let me phrase it a different way. Is there a present capacity in the educational system in America to handle a full appropriation of \$2,441 million, if these dollars were to be deemed to be available?

Secretary GARDNER. I think that even if we were perfectly free, we would not go to that figure.

Mr. DELLENBACK. Would you give me any estimate of where, or would you give the committee any estimate of where the capacity stands at the present time to utilize appropriated funds?

Secretary GARDNER. I just would not be able to do it. I would have to pick a figure out of the air. The budgetmaking process is 3 months of long, hard struggling, negotiation and discussion, and it is very hard at this late date to go back and suggest what might have been, had we not had so many considerations to face.

Mr. DELLENBACK. Despite all these considerations, you would see the appropriation at something less than the 1968 authorization?

Secretary GARDNER. Yes.

Mr. DELLENBACK. May I ask you a question in the field of relationship between the Federal, State, and local districts? In general, do you see in the future an increasing amount of Federal-local district involvement? I am talking about direct involvement between the Federal and local districts. Or do you see an increasing Federal-State level involvement in the field of education?

Secretary GARDNER. As I said, I think we are in a period of transition, and none of us know how it will come out. You talk to big city superintendents and they feel very strongly that the day when all money flows through the State capitol will be a very difficult day for them, and they would like very much to have some capacity to come to the Federal Government directly.

I talked with one big city superintendent quite recently who was talking about a program that was to go through the State capitol. He said, "All right, let it go through the State capitol, but don't let them get their grimy hands on it."

Mr. DELLENBACK. Would you say that is the general philosophy in many large cities?

Secretary GARDNER. No, sir. Well, the large cities, I think, have characteristically tended to chafe under any control by the States. This has been a very common thing in education and in other problems. But we have taken the position that the States must be strengthened and must be given a substantially increased role. I would be extremely hesitant to suggest that that role should eventually squeeze out all other routes and all other ways of dealing with the cities.