

These kinds of agencies would be eligible for planning activities under that 25 percent set-aside, and it is those that we would support in part.

Mrs. GREEN. Isn't it true that these States enter into these compacts, without funds coming from your Office? They could use their State funds for this.

Mr. HOWE. Absolutely, and they do. For instance, the Southern Regional Education Board is funded by an equal contribution from 17 States, as I recall, that chip in to make that a viable enterprise.

The States are not in a position to do heavy funding of planning exercises, or at least don't seem to have been, because they have certainly been slow to mount major long-range planning efforts for the elementary-secondary schools, and many of them have done very little at the level of higher education.

Secretary GARDNER. Mr. Estes wanted to comment.

Mr. ESTES. Mrs. Green, I think a good example of what you are talking about is the Appalachian Commission. We have been working with them for the past 8 to 12 months, attempting to get their established Education Committee funded and in operation. It represents 11 States.

We did not find any one of the chief State school officers in the 11 States that was willing to reduce his allocation under 503 to partially fund the organization, which would run about \$200,000 or \$300,000 a year.

We attempted to fund this interstate group, using title III funds. However, we found that was very cumbersome, because a local school district, that is the only eligible applicant under title III, would have had to agree in each of the 11 States to submit companion proposals.

These, in turn, would have gone through our rigorous review process, making it very cumbersome. The representatives from these States are supporting this kind of authority that would make it possible for them mutually to come together and in an 11-State compact to do some overall long-range planning for the 11-State area.

Mrs. GREEN. Mr. Secretary, did you have a chance to look at the regional education labs? Would you want to discuss that today, or do you want to discuss that at a future time?

Secretary GARDNER. I would be glad to discuss it, particularly with Harold Howe here. We have been through this reexamination of the labs together, and he has been particularly close to it. I think it would be useful to do it now.

Mrs. GREEN. Well, the reason I bring it up, I think this seems to be a trend to weaken State departments of education. If there are good reasons for doing this, then I think the committee ought to know, and at least know the direction in which we are going.

In addition to the parts here in this legislation, as I understand it, there are 10 R. & D. labs, across the country. Is it nine or 10?

Mr. HOWE. Eleven, Mrs. Green. And four more in the process of being developed.

Mrs. GREEN. And then on the regional education labs, there are 20?

Mr. HOWE. Yes.

Mrs. GREEN. And then in each State, there are supplementary centers?