

Mr. GOODELL. I think it would be good to receive it now when we are looking to some kind of extension of this act, or we plan if this Federal Government is going to expend this amount of money or who are in the future, the whole thing will expire in 1968.

If it was extended in its present form, the same formula, I imagine 1971 or 1972 when you have the figures there would be a shocking adjustment around the country, would there not, because of the increase in an influence in some areas. I mentioned the farm counties where if they have a bumper crop in 1969 and 1970 when the census was taken it would be different than if they had a crop failure in 1959 or 1960 for one or the mobility of the population.

We seem to have a little difficulty here with the change in formula. Perhaps the change would be even more drastic when the census figures came out maybe we could make some plans for it if we had those figures.

Let me ask another question along the line that a number of my colleagues have asked, more on the philosophy of strengthening State responsibility in education. Do you think that the State department of education as such can be strengthened in order to be the overall State agency through which Federal programs of elementary and secondary schools can be administered or do you think there needs to be developed an alternative method of reaching all the school districts other than the State departments of education?

Secretary GARDNER. I would like to get Commissioner Howe's view on that. I also would like to express my own feeling on it.

I have pressed very hard for a number of years now for a strengthening of the State departments of education, whatever they happen to be called in each State. I am quite convinced that this is essential, whatever else we do. This must be a major part of our strategy. In my view it is one of the essential ingredients of any Federal-State-local relationship. You cannot carry on this relationship in the healthy fashion you want it carried on unless you strengthen the States so that they can play their role as independent parties.

But many people in the course of these years that I have been pressing this view, many people have made persuasive arguments to me that the local school districts have always had their own integrity and independence and that that must not be lost either and that in our eagerness to establish an effective relationship with the States we must keep in mind the independence of the local school districts and particularly big city school superintendents feel quite strongly that they have kinds of problems on which they have a right to talk directly with the Federal Government, that they have kinds of problems which are not always recognized or dealt with effectively in the State capitol.

The universities feel, particularly in the educational field, that they have a role which must not be subordinated to the State capitol. I am talking here of State universities. In summary then I think that the strengthening of the State department of education must be a primary part of our strategy but that we have to bear in mind the requirements and arguments of these other constituents who feel that they too have a role to play.

Mr. QUIE. Do you feel then that the local school districts have developed an autonomy which should permit them to really be sepa-