

rate from the State to a certain extent in order to maintain that autonomy? I go back to the origin of the school districts, that they exist at the sufferance of the States. They were set up by State law.

The State could abolish them all if they wanted to, change the boundaries any way they want to, although most States have tried to develop some kind of local evolvement when they do bring about a reorganization. I recognize that many school boards have not as great a fear of the State department of education as they have of the U.S. Office of Education, but practically as much.

They talk about State control when they are through condemning Federal control.

Secretary GARDNER. I would say a number of big city superintendents of my acquaintance have more concern about State control than Federal control.

Mr. QUIE. You anticipate then that we will see an evolution where the State department of education would be the supervising agency over the smaller school districts in the large city, but would have separate but equal authority as the State department of education. We have seen in many counties where the county superintendent of schools once was the administrative officer supervising all of the schools in a county. Then a large city or large school district had obtained their own superintendent and the county superintendent of schools would just have authority and responsibility over the small elementary schools of the county.

Secretary GARDNER. I think the primacy of the State education department is well lodged in law and will not really change. But I think the pressure of the big cities will always be toward a generous interpretation of that and an insistence on their own capacity to make some of their decisions. I would like to keep the situation sufficiently loose so that the local school districts could expect the same kind of generous attitude toward their capacity to initiate and decide that I would hope the States could expect from the Federal Government.

Mr. QUIE. Is this the reason then that you are proposing that new planning money so that you can work toward so-called flexibility? There is a possibility as I see it of developing another State planning agency out of it instead of funding title V to its full authorization.

I might just say that my colleague from Indiana, Mr. Brademas, never indicated that the States are capable now of running their own State department of education, which to me is an indication of Indiana's strength. But he did offer the amendment last year to bring the authorization from \$30 million up to \$50 million indicating to me that he would like to see them strengthened at last.

I hope that is an accurate explanation of my colleague from Indiana's position on it.

Secretary GARDNER. Harold, would you comment?

Mr. HOWE. Mr. Quie, it seems to me that the relationship of the States to local school districts is going to be different than the relation of the Federal Government to the States, that the powers and prerogatives which the State has in law for setting the organization of the schools or certifying teachers, or setting the curriculum of the schools, these three areas, are powers and prerogatives which the Federal Government does not have.