

Baltimore City public schools have a disproportionate share of those pupils with unique and complex educational problems—problems which in large measure reflect the great environmental disadvantages to which many of these children are subjected.

Chairman PERKINS. Before you leave that point, are you stating that you are in favor of the proposed amendment to title V being proposed by the administration?

Mr. PAQUIN. I am in favor of the amendment to title V which brings in more of this regional planning kind of thing.

Chairman PERKINS. Where they can bypass the States, do you support that?

Mr. PAQUIN. This, I think, might be advantageous. I think the comment that Mayor Collins of Boston made recently is one which I find myself becoming more and more sympathetic to.

Chairman PERKINS. You may proceed.

Mr. PAQUIN. Baltimore City alone cannot resolve this critical issue. We need and seek the assistance and talent not only of the State education department, but of our colleagues in neighboring school systems. We feel, too, that we have information and experience which can be helpful to them.

The proposed amendment to title V of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act will, in my judgment, help State and local communities take some needed steps in the direction of joint educational planning and evaluation.

Third, I endorse fully the proposal to establish a 5-year program of financial grants to support the planning, development and operation of new and more realistic programs of vocational education.

The Baltimore City public schools, in cooperation with the Maryland State Department of Education, have already taken steps to move in the direction of doing a better job of providing vocational education for our students than we have in the past.

We feel strongly that we can no longer be complacent about the thousands of boys and girls who leave school because the school has little to offer them. By the same token, we cannot overlook the fact that many of our students who do complete high school have not, in school, learned a skill which will insure at least their entry into the labor force.

As I stated previously, the Baltimore City public schools have already begun to tackle this problem. With the assistance of a team from New York University, we are making a complete survey of our vocational education facilities, staff, and program. This survey will be completed by September 1967. By early in 1968, the Baltimore City public schools will be ready to implement what we expect will be a "bold, new program."

The proposed amendments to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act—amendments which provide \$30 million for vocational education—will be essential if what we come up with in our study is to become more than a superficial change of the present inadequate program.

Fourth, I commend those who would amend the present legislation to provide greater educational opportunities for handicapped children.

As superintendent in Baltimore City, one of the most difficult aspects of my job is to be confronted with hundreds of handicapped children