

Mr. WHITTIER. Well, that is the point, and you cannot underwrite any of our so-called basic programs.

Mrs. GREEN. We have instances in Oregon where economically poor areas have started a program, and they did not have the funds to carry it through. Title I came along, and because this particular school district had started the program, they were precluded from using title I funds for it, while an adjoining school district had not started a program in the preceding year, they could use title I funds for exactly the same thing.

We set up such artificial barriers, such tight guidelines, that we cannot say the money is always spent wisely. When we were having hearings across the country, we ran into some districts that admitted they spent 40 percent of the funds for equipment. Was that the figure?

Mr. OHRENBERGER. In the first year.

Mrs. GREEN. Yes. Why? Because there is a magical deadline the Federal Government imposes; if you do not spend all of the money by a particular date, you lose it.

This would not be true if you had general aid and all that it implies. You would be able to spend it and get a lot more "bang for the buck."

Mr. WHITTIER. Well, you have another problem, as you know, and that is if you are spending it for personnel, you had a carryover factor, and we had no assurance; and we could not buy in on that one, so that was one of the factors why you spend it on that kind of a program.

Mr. FORD. Mr. Chairman, I have a question.

Assuming the situation that Mrs. Green has described, the school district submitting under title I an application for a specific program, is that not submitted to your State title I office? It does not come down here to Washington to get turned down, does it?

Mrs. GREEN. It is in the law.

Mr. FORD. We are not talking about one that is clearly in the law. We are talking about a situation where the people in a school district look at the law and feel in their opinion that this would be the kind of program that would be legal, or they obviously would not submit the application. But who makes the decision if a city school district wants to undertake a program under title I, after you have been given the guidelines, and then that program is kicked back to you, and they say, "No, you can't go ahead with the program." Isn't that done at the State level?

Mr. WHITTIER. Yes. This is screening.

Mr. FORD. So we are not here talking about a situation where after you have conceived the program and proceeded with it, you are thwarted in your efforts to carry it out by a decision made in Washington after the fact of the application.

Mr. WHITTIER. No, what we are talking about really is the extensive detailed prescriptions that initiate in the first place from the Federal.

Mr. FORD. I understand that, but there is a very important distinction between the two, because the discussion this afternoon up until now has been on the role, I take it, of the State and local educators in devising and directing these programs. I would not want the record to be left with the impression that these title I programs are being reviewed here in Washington, after they are devised.