

Mr. Brademas asked the question with regard to title III. The proposal has been made that the State be interposed and have what is called the veto power over title III projects.

He asked you whether this was acceptable. The answer you gave and I am not quoting you exactly, was that if there was a veto power we would like it to reside in the States.

Is that an accurate statement?

Dr. DONOVAN. I think so; yes.

Mr. MEEDS. I don't think it is that simple—that if there is a veto it must be exercised by the State. The question is that title III now does not have veto power. It has the consultation with the State Department of education and approval finally by the Commissioner of Education or Office of Education of the United States.

We are agreed on that. Now, the question then becomes, do we interpose a further veto power or further power to approve or disapprove this program and let it reside in the State.

Dr. DONOVAN. I think I would have to answer you that—and the same general answer I give to everything else on which I stand—I would rather do my business with the business education department of the State of New York than with the U.S. Office of Education for just one reason, that it is closer to my problem, I believe.

Despite differences of opinion and the fact that they have a veto or Washington has a veto, I still think the closer we get to the local problem the better off we are.

Mr. MEEDS. The way title III operates now you are dealing directly with the U.S. Office of Education.

Dr. DONOVAN. No, sir, we are not. We are dealing through the State on title III. It goes through the State screening committee. If they send an approval to Washington it counts a little bit although Washington has the final say.

Mr. MEEDS. I think we must assume that Washington, D.C. at least in regard to title III is still going to have the final say no matter what happens.

My next question is: Would you then desire that State—in addition to the situation that exists now under title III—would you then desire that the State have the right to veto, let us say, to approve or disapprove the State programs? That is the real question.

Dr. DONOVAN. I think my answer to that would have to be yes. If I believe in the State department I believe in it.

Mr. MEEDS. Now the rest of you gentlemen who responded this morning, do you have an answer to that question?

Dr. WHITTIER. Are you imposing another decisionmaking level?

Mrs. GREEN. Will you yield?

I would like to direct a question to Dr. Donovan before he leaves.

Three quick questions in three specific areas: One in regard to the handicapped. If I recall, originally we defined handicapped to include the gifted.

In the present section the handicapped does not include the gifted. What is the situation in New York?

Dr. DONOVAN. The gifted are not handicapped with us.

Mrs. GREEN. Do you think attention should be given to them as well as to the handicapped? Are their problems just as great?