

advantage of full funding under title I where we have some of our most serious problems of the educationally deprived.

In the case of White Plains or in Westchester or New York, generally, would you care to comment about the desirability of full funding as per the authorization under title I?

Mr. JOHNSON. Chairman PERKINS, may I put in an aside, before I answer that, to say how much we appreciate the fact that Congressman Reid has firsthand knowledge of these programs.

I personally visited the programs with him, and it is this kind of knowledge which I think is most helpful to the Congress in realizing the value even more than what we say. As you see these programs, and I am sure it is true of all of you, and talk with parents, as Congressman Reid does, as you are in close contact with the programs, I think you can indeed see the value of them.

I would favor, since there are many youngsters in title I that are being aided under title I, many others who need to be aided under title I who are not now being aided.

We have arbitrarily set 2 years of retardation. I am sure that in other places in the country they have had to set—if it is exclusively a reading program—a greater level of retardation. I would favor full financing to the extent of the amount that you mentioned, and feel that even that might not be adequate to do the job that ought to be done in picking up deficiencies in our educational programs.

Mr. REID. In the case of White Plains, just to be specific, compared with what you now get under title I, could you roughly double that?

Mr. JOHNSON. We could prudently use twice as much, Mr. Reid.

Mr. REID. Thank you.

Chairman PERKINS. The comment from you is very impressive insofar as I am concerned because it has been alleged consistently from the time we started with that categorical approach that Westchester County was a wealthy county and did not need assistance in that area.

I am impressed with your statement that you really could well utilize twice the amount of funds that you are receiving at the present time in Westchester County.

If you did not receive the funding that you are receiving under the bill at the present time, would it be possible to put into operation these enrichment programs, special programs that you have referred to here today?

Mr. JOHNSON. From local funds?

Chairman PERKINS. Yes.

Mr. JOHNSON. Under the present tax limitations it would not, sir. I pointed to the fact that in White Plains we have 2,000 illiterates with which we are working under the NDT programs. About 20 percent of our population is, by definition, at the poverty level.

Chairman PERKINS. About 20 percent?

Mr. JOHNSON. Yes; that is in my community.

Chairman PERKINS. And you consider then it is proper to recognize poverty whenever it exists, regardless of the income level of Westchester County.

Am I correct in that assumption? You feel that the formula we have adopted, putting the funds wherever they have these spots of poverty over and above a certain number is proper, is that correct?