

of advantage, you should have authorization so you can go out and employ teachers and buy supplies and materials, to plan for alterations of rooms in many instances.

This cannot be done on short notice. If you insist on spending the money prudently, you must have authorization well in advance of the time you begin to pay the money out.

Mr. ERLNBORN. Let me address this to all of you. I think you realize the present authorization carries us through fiscal 1968 and the Office of Education presently has no plans this year to ask for additional authorization in fiscal 1969.

Do you feel that we are headed down the road again of late funding, and does this worry you?

Mr. JOHNSON. We are heading down the road, sir, of late funding, and it worries me.

Mr. HOLT. I have recently come from Arizona and I was concerned as to what would happen to the Indians. I am happy to see that they are extended to 1968 now.

Chairman PERKINS. It would give you more assurance if we put in at least a 2-year duration to the authorization with the hope that the Committee on Appropriations would appropriate early, several months before the beginning of the fiscal year?

Mr. BREIT. Yes, this is a matter of real concern to us, particularly in securing the adequate personnel. You simply must do this in the early spring of the year.

Chairman PERKINS. We hope that you can help us make that point this year before the House Committee on Appropriations. I hope this committee, in extending this program, can cure the criticism. You must have an idea of your budgets early. You may impress the House Committee on Appropriations.

It is my understanding that they have hearings this year running into April. If some of you want to come down and put in an appearance before the House Committee on Appropriations, I would think it would be helpful for them to see the picture we are getting here.

Mr. FORD. Mr. Chairman.

Chairman PERKINS. Mr. Ford.

Mr. FORD. Gentlemen, last year when we were reviewing the first year of operations of the bill we had some principal State school officers who had stated that they had difficulty in title I with an overloading of equipment requests.

In other words, in their opinion in their particular State the people making up the title I applications had used a much larger percentage of their money for hardware.

But in general the prediction was made that this would change, that in the initial years there would be heavy hardware expenditures and as time went by this would represent a sharply decreasing percentage of the expenditure of title I funds.

In the past couple of days it has become apparent that there is within the Congress and within this committee some feeling that perhaps too much of title I money is being used for equipment and that you are really not doing much more than that.

Is the prediction that was made a year ago that this would drop off sharply coming through or not?