

Mr. DELLENBACK. You feel it imperative, then, that the Federal Government continue in these areas to deal directly with the local districts rather than leaning very heavily on the State departments?

Mr. TORRENCE. I think that there is room for cooperation between the Federal and the State, but the direction should be in OE at the Federal level.

Mr. DELLENBACK. Do you have any suggestions you can make to us relative to what further than is already being done under title V could be done to beef up the State departments?

Part of the basic question which faces us at the Federal level, and particularly those of us who come from States which, by and large, are doing a good job on a State level and on a local district level in education, is how to reach a common denominator that extends across 50 States which are diverse.

Some of us are deeply concerned that our State departments ought to be given a great deal of responsibility, and that we would rather have our State departments deeply involved than we would have the Federal Government deeply involved. We are met with the answer that you can't do this in States A, B, and C because their State departments just wouldn't do the job and, therefore, we must go to the lowest common denominator on the Federal level that we don't feel necessarily benefits education in our particular States as best it could be benefited.

Texas may be one of these States and Oregon may be one of the States; maybe New York and maybe certain other States.

Do you have anything in this area that you can say to us. How can we handle both of these problems at the same time?

Dr. Miller has made one suggestion. Perhaps you can pick out two, three or four States and give them control. But this is very difficult to do.

Mr. TORRENCE. It is a very difficult problem, sir. I don't know beyond what Dr. Miller has said, really, at this point, what ought to be done or what might be tested or tried.

Mr. DELLENBACK. May I ask one additional question, Mr. Chairman, if I may?

Let me be pointed. Would you feel that education in Alabama would suffer if we were to go to a situation which placed increased responsibility effectively on the State's department at the expense of the Federal Government dealing directly with local school districts?

Mr. TORRENCE. I think that it would suffer and that there would be tremendous inequities in those who do profit from the programs.

Mr. DELLENBACK. At least in this one State, the State department would not measure up to what it ought to be doing?

Mr. TORRENCE. Not in my judgment.

Mr. DELLENBACK. Would you expand this over any neighboring States to Alabama?

Mr. TORRENCE. Yes; this would hold true in most of the neighboring States, I think.

Mr. DELLENBACK. Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman PERKINS. Mr. Esch.

Mr. ESCH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.