

tion planning and to the higher education board for the higher phase of it.

Mrs. GREEN. Do you have a copy of the bill?

Mr. HITT. Yes.

Mrs. GREEN. On page 30 there is the provision that sets aside \$15 million, and authorizes the Commissioner to make grants to public or private nonprofit agencies, institutions or organizations or to make contracts with public or private agencies, institutions, or organizations for special projects related to the purposes of this part to be conducted on an interstate, regional, or metropolitan basis.

What is your reaction to the Commissioner being given the authority to contract for comprehensive planning with the private agencies?

Mr. HITT. I see no objection to this.

Mrs. GREEN. Does it do anything to the State departments of education?

Mr. HITT. I don't think so. There is no reason why some of this planning can't be going forward through other devices and other institutions at the same time it is going through the State department.

But I am a firm believer that if we are going to move the title III program, if we are going to move public education in general, there must be a heavy involvement of the State department of education.

The U.S. Office cannot move directly from Washington into the school districts without involving the State department of education and doing an effective job. This is the position I take. It is a partnership operation, I say, involving the Office of Education and the State department of education, and the local organization.

Mrs. GREEN. Let me turn to something else, if I may.

Under the provisions for the handicapped children, again this bill would give the Commissioner of Education the authority to make grants to nonprofit agencies, and also to enter into contracts with private profitmaking organizations and agencies for research or demonstration projects.

Do you think that this is a good trend in terms of sound educational planning?

Mr. HITT. I can only react to this from how I think it should operate in our State of Texas.

I think that as we establish in Texas these 20 regional service centers which will have as their core educational planning, and each governed by a lay board—we will have a professional educator as the director, who will serve on the Texas Commission of Education Planning Council—this is the way we can get an unidentified planning job done.

If we plan without this planning, leading directly to implementation of a sound program of education, then we have wasted our time planning. It becomes an academic vacuum, so to speak.

So, I think it has to be built into the framework with safeguards so that you do get innovative practice and bring it to bear on the problems of education.

When you ask a question about how this language would work, it would depend on how the U.S. Commissioner would administer this language.

Mrs. GREEN. The point I am trying to get your views on is: that in three places in this bill, funds could be used by the Commissioner to