

department, let me read a statement that was made by the superintendent of public instruction in Wisconsin and his chief deputy, and get your comments, and those of Dr. Hitt. He said:

We support the conversion of Title III of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to a state plan operation which will permit each state to administer its plan of supplementary services and centers.

Specifically, is this what you think we ought not to do under the present circumstances, based on your study?

Mr. MILLER. Yes. I do not think we are ready for this yet. I think it would be a real mistake at this point to turn over title III to the State departments. I would state from my experience that it would, in a sense, probably destroy the spirit of title III at the present time, to turn it over to all the State departments, en masse. This is different from what I said earlier, turning over selectively on an experimental basis to those that we recognize.

I know the political problems of recognition here, but it seems to me that treating all the States alike, if you had to do it all or none, then I would say none. But I much prefer saying let's try it on the basis of a few, and perhaps chronologically, as they develop, which certainly I support very fully. They should develop much greater strength. Then maybe it can be moved a little more in that direction.

Mr. STEIGER. Do you have any comments, Dr. Hitt?

Mr. HITT. Yes.

There has been quite a bit of talk about the weakness of State departments. I would like to point out one thing, that in the past 3 years there has been a very substantial strengthening of State departments of education. If we are going to follow through with strengthening, organizations or people strengthen as they get responsibility.

This is the reason I proposed that 50 percent—I wouldn't quibble about the percentage—or some have the responsibility, some portion of title III, should be moved into the State departments to give them that responsibility, because it is through the exercise of responsibility that they continue to strengthen and grow.

As we operate with the Office of Education, it is not going to bother Texas one way or the other, because we have a working relationship worked out and we work with our people constantly in planning their title III projects so that we are involved in the grassroots planning of these projects and in their implementation.

On the point of how much resource they put in it, in our State we feel like title III is an integral part of our overall planning effort for education in the State. We not only have a full-time person working with it, but when we come to the review period we may involve 30 or 40 of our other staff people in the operation.

We will assign staff personnel to monitor these projects as they operate so that we know what is going on in the projects. I think this is the way a State department should work. It should be a full partner in the operation. Unless we move in that direction, if you wait 5 years you will be in the same position you are in now, possibly. The involvement of people and organizations is what I think strengthens it.

Mr. STEIGER. Dr. Torrence, in your statement you said that we must devote further attention to exploration of the question of motivation of young people who might not now go to college.