

The University of Texas dean of education made one of his staff people available. We made office space at the university and A. & M. university sent one of their people over to assist.

The university at Baton Rouge, La., sent a person to work with us. Cooperatively we developed a plan for a laboratory to cover these two States. During the review period we then created a nonprofit corporation under the Texas law.

Mrs. GREEN. How did you happen to establish a private, nonprofit organization? How did you happen to use this format?

Mr. HITT. We felt this was the most feasible and workable way to operate this kind of an institution in the States.

Mrs. GREEN. Was it suggested by anybody? Was there direction on this?

Mr. HITT. No, this evolved out of our planning there in the Texas Education Agency with the university groups.

On this board for the lab, in this private corporation, we have the commissioner of education from Texas, the commissioner from Louisiana, the chancellor of the University of Louisiana, the chancellor of the University of Texas, representation from A. & M. College.

We have outstanding lay citizens on this lab board. So they have a 23-man board, with a representative of labor, of industry, of education, trying to get a complete cross section of the educational community and the lay community of the two States.

The lab is operating in very close cooperation with our department.

Mrs. GREEN. What is it doing, specifically?

Mr. HITT. Its focus was on the needs of the inner cultural groups in the society of these two States. It will tune in to work on problems relating to the migrant, the Latin American culture as it exists in Texas, for instance; the French groups that influence the Louisiana society; the Negro as a part of the society of both States; of moving into the area of teaching education or teacher education; moving into the area of retraining of teachers.

Mrs. GREEN. Do they actually train teachers?

Mr. HITT. You see, our lab was one of the last ones established.

Mrs. GREEN. When was it established?

Mr. HITT. About 10 months ago, when they were in the planning grants. They were recently approved for a 22-month operational grant.

Mrs. GREEN. Let me ask you specifically. Is there anything that the regional education lab is doing that the State department of education in Texas could not do if they had the same funds?

Mr. HITT. The answer to that question is "No."

Mrs. GREEN. Then why do we set up another agency?

Mr. HITT. But there are areas in which they can move that would be more difficult for the department to move in.

Mrs. GREEN. What area, specifically, and why would it be more difficult?

Mr. HITT. I suppose tradition would be part of it.

Mrs. GREEN. Specifically, what area can they move in that the State department could not, if they had the funds, if they had the same money?

Mr. HITT. Mrs. Green, I can't answer that. I don't believe that there is any area that they are working in at the moment that our de-