

partment could not work in. We have a rather broad-based legal base under our department.

Mrs. GREEN. If we say we want to strengthen the State department of education and then by action we set up a competing organization charged with the same responsibility but with a heck of a lot more money and with no limitation on how they can siphon off personnel from other agencies, what are we doing? Are we doing what we say we want to do?

Mr. HITT. It will be in pilot program development, of additional involvement. We are operating more or less as partners in attacking these problems. The reason we wanted the lab is that it gave us more resources that could be brought to bear on these problems more quickly.

Mrs. GREEN. It is largely examination, isn't it, and not much research?

Mr. HITT. It will be in pilot program development, of additional instruction materials, suited to the needs of these particular cultural groups.

Mrs. GREEN. Have you not been doing this in the State department?

Mr. HITT. Yes, we have, but by having then both forces at work we can get them done more quickly. In other words, we were trying to multiply our resources when we conceived the idea of moving into a laboratory.

Mrs. GREEN. You said that you strengthen the State departments of education with the exercise of responsibility?

Mr. HITT. We have not withdrawn from the field, but we are not duplicating each other. They are working in one field and we are working in another.

Mrs. GREEN. But I thought you said you had been doing exactly the same thing as the regional lab?

Mr. HITT. We are working in the same general areas. Under our legal authority, we have legal authority to do anything that they are doing now but we do not have the resources to do all that are underway at this time.

Mrs. GREEN. And if we give you the same resources?

Mr. HITT. We could do them.

Mrs. GREEN. Why would it not be better to have one set of books, one administrative procedure and give the State department the resources that we give to the R. & D. lab?

Mr. HITT. This is not the R. & D. lab. This is the regional laboratory.

Mrs. GREEN. I am sorry. The regional education lab?

Mr. HITT. This would work either way.

Mrs. GREEN. Which way would it work better, if you want to strengthen the State departments?

Mr. HITT. I think we should do both.

Mrs. GREEN. You do?

Mr. HITT. Yes.

Mrs. GREEN. You want a competing agency?

Mr. HITT. It is not competing.

Mrs. GREEN. I won't say competing. But you want another agency with more funds that is doing exactly what you could do?

Mr. HITT. Let me try to phrase it this way. There is room in the area of education in the Southwest for the laboratory and for the State