

Since we in KEA are in no way responsible for the administration of the funds distributed under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, nor is it the recipient of any, my testimony, naturally, will have to deal with some of my own observations and reactions which I have received from those who are more closely identified with the administration of the funds.

I would like to express appreciation to the committee for what the Elementary and Secondary Education Act has meant to our schools in Kentucky. Even though KEA is on record, and has been for a long time, favoring general Federal aid with the State being allowed to develop programs within the framework of its particular needs, we believe that the Elementary and Secondary Education Act has certainly brought improvements to our schools. Through the years, serious attempts have been made in the Congress to get general aid for public education but, as you know, it has met with defeat time after time. It is possible that this act is the only way that public education can be improved at this time. On the other hand, this does not minimize our conviction in the belief that the best possible way in which the Federal Government can assist public education is through some sort of general aid with an equalization factor in the distribution formula.

Most States have developed foundation programs for the distribution of State funds and, in my judgment, the bulk of Federal aid for education should come to the States under some approach similar to the foundation program laws which operate in most of the States throughout the Nation. This could be an objective formula which considers financial ability of a State with relation to its participation in Federal funds. Federal aid to education will never quite get the job done until this principle of distribution is recognized by the Congress.

It is our belief that all aid for elementary and secondary education under this act should be channeled through the U.S. Office of Education and the State departments of education to the local school districts within the State law. As I understand it, there are presently some programs which are not channeled through these particular agencies. For example, the Headstart program, which is currently administered by OEO, and the National Teachers Corps which is directly administered from the U.S. Office of Education to the local school districts are not handled in this manner.

I am sure you will hear a great deal about this during the period of hearings, but there seems to be a need for improved timing of authorization, appropriations, guidelines, and allocations. In my judgment, this will facilitate more effective planning insofar as programs are concerned.

In our State, there is still a tremendous need for school buildings and facilities. In our State, according to a recent survey, the need for classroom construction and related facilities is in the neighborhood of \$143 million. The Kentucky Legislature, in trying to meet the increased demands for teacher salaries to keep them anywhere near the level they should be, has been unable to make any appropriation at the State level for buildings since 1960. The lack of appropriations by the legislature for school buildings has not only limited