

Problems have arisen, however, in the implementation of Indian projects. Because of the necessity to work out administrative details, the transfer of funds from the Office of Education to the Department of Interior was delayed until January 4, 1967. Thus, the Bureau of Indian Affairs became an active participant at an inconveniently late date.

Projects had to be developed in a short time which did not always meet the most urgent requirements of quality education.

Also, the 1966 amendments limited the Indian program to 1 year, ending June 30, 1967.

The time available for the implementation of projects, January 4 to June 30, 1967, does not permit the development of programs that will make a real difference in the achievement of Indian children.

These factors of time, the late start coupled with the cutoff date of June 30, 1967, have been severe handicaps.

Extension of the Indian amendment to June 30, 1968, as proposed in H.R. 6230 will permit:

1. The planning phase for projects proposed for the 1967-68 school year to begin immediately. This would allow—

(a) intensive consultation and planning between the Indian community and the school to establish priorities.

(b) consultant help from the Central Office Staff, Bureau of Indian Affairs; and Office of Education to help organize plans for projects.

(c) recruitment now for personnel that will be needed for projects planned for 1967-68. Specifically, quality programs depend on quality personnel. These people are available in the early spring and summer for contractual agreements for the next school year. They are rarely available in September or January.

2. Successful projects now in operation could continue where appropriate.

3. Advantage could be taken of a "continuing resolution" type of legislation to allow continuity in program development.

4. Personnel hired for the 1967 project period would not have to be dismissed June 30, but could continue in service for the following year. They would be available in the summer months to assist in planning projects. This would be of particular importance where highly trained professionals with special skills have been hired.

While a start has been made, and we are pleased with our program as it has developed, we are aware of the limiting factors of traditional funding patterns. Extension of the Indian amendment to June 30, 1968, will provide additional funds enabling further progress in our program of enriching and upgrading Indian education.

Chairman PERKINS. I appreciate your statement but I think somewhere along the line if we are going to give the various school agencies and the local districts the opportunity to plan in the future we might as well throw out the limit on these 1-year extensions. Do you not think it would be much better and provide a much better planning base from your standpoint if we extended the program, say, to June 30, 1969, because next year you are going to be under the same gun that you are under right now?

Why not let us have a better opportunity to come in here and work on legislation when we are not under pressure and likewise you can