

1058 ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION AMENDMENTS

and pilot innovative programs in vocational education. This is commendable—except that the amendment would allow the U.S. Commissioner to award grants or to make contracts with the state education agency or local public or non-profit education agencies—or with private profit-making agencies from the state's allocation. He could completely by-pass the state agency.

We oppose placing this responsibility on the U.S. Commissioner of Education. The acceptable alternative would be to make the allocations to the state agencies for vocational education, under a state plan, with authority to contract with public or private agencies for services not possible within the normal vocational education program of the state. We find no justification for contracts between industry and the Office of Education.

IV. The proposal to extend the benefits of Title I for another year and the benefits of Titles II and III to both the Indian Schools and the DOD Schools presents us with a dilemma. These are federal schools and should be supported to the fullest extent by the respective Departments. Including them in the legislation providing funds for schools operated in local school districts reduces the funds available for local use. However, any legislation that benefits large numbers of American children cannot be opposed until the basic problem has been resolved.

We would repeat our suggestion of last year that the Congress appoint a committee to study the needs of the children enrolled in the B.I.A. schools—a study similar to the excellent one of the D.O.D. schools made by a sub-committee of this committee.

V. We have supported, and continue to support, the National Teacher Corps as an innovative experimental program to provide teachers for urban and rural schools with large concentration of children from low-income families. We believe that the transfer of this program from the Higher Education Act to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act is a wise and constructive action. NEA's support of the program is based on the principle of assisting school districts with large numbers of disadvantaged children to secure highly qualified teachers. We believe that the amendments proposed in HR 6230 are sound.

1. The amendment concerning intern reimbursement is valid.
2. State agency approval is vital.
3. Clarifying the local control provision as provided in Sec. 115 is essential.
4. Authorizing the Teacher Corps to accept gifts is proper.
5. The inclusion of programs for migrant children are valid improvements—provided the appropriate state education agencies' approvals are secured.
6. We question the advisability of including the federally operated Indian schools in the Teacher Corps program. Improvement of the B.I.A. schools is a federal responsibility that should be met by direct appropriation. (See attached survey.)

VI. The amendments relating to education of the handicapped prompt a mixed reaction. The NEA is very much in favor of expanding federal incentives to the states for education of exceptional children.

However, these children should be served, with special supplementary services where necessary, within the aegis of the local public school systems in the states. There should be greatly increased appropriations to the states for assistance to local schools to supplement state and local funds for education services for exceptional children. These funds should be in addition to Title I ESEA funds and not transferred from the Title I appropriation. There should be additional Title VI funds provided—in substantial amounts—for the education of the handicapped.

In specific reference to the provisions in HR 6230 relating to the handicapped, we believe the proposal for Regional Resource Centers needs very careful consideration. If the purposes of Sec. 608 are carried out exclusively with institutions of higher education and state education departments, or combinations of such, and not arranged with profit-making agencies we believe they can be useful. Expansion of the Captioned Films for the Deaf Program into an Instructional Media Program to include all handicapped children is a sound proposal.

VII. With respect to the disaster relief amendments, we urge that they be extended as proposed in HR 6230. However, we believe there is need to consider some type of assistance for situations in which a local school or college facility is destroyed by a catastrophe which does not meet the definition of disaster.

VIII. The need for substantial financial assistance to the states for school construction is still increasing. This is caused by constantly expanding enroll-