

This makes them in effect sort of minions of the Federal Government and this is wrong.

Mr. ERLNBORN. I like your observations along this line as to the effect of the regional educational labs. I will preface this by saying, in our study of the Office of Education we have found—and my experience is limited but in the few places we went—there was a divergence of opinion as to the mission or responsibility of what the regional educational labs might be.

They seemed to think that the principal mission was dissemination of information on a regional basis. These regions seemed to vary. In the State of Pennsylvania, for instance, there are three different regional labs involved in one State.

Is this in line with strengthening State departments of education or is this again breaking down the authority of the State departments of education, admitting we are moving toward a Federal system?

Am I wrong?

Mr. LUMLEY. I have to concur with you. I think the regional labs have to be tied to the State departments. Otherwise you are breaking down again. If Pennsylvania has the need, if there is need for three regional labs in Pennsylvania, they certainly should be tied to the Pennsylvania Department of Education so that the department of education has a hand in this dissemination.

Otherwise the dissemination may not be in accord with the policy of the State department.

Mr. ERLNBORN. If the principal mission of the regional educational lab is the dissemination of information aren't they doing the job that the State department ought to be doing?

Mrs. Gereau?

Mrs. GEREAU. The answer is yes, sir.

Mr. LUMLEY. Yes. The answer is yes, no hesitation on this. I think that a part of this is research, with the research going on. Again, if this should go through, dissemination of research, even if this is done in another area, should go in my opinion through the channels set up by the State department of education, and I think philosophically what we are saying to you in all of our testimony is that we believe that the Federal Government has a major role to play in education because of the national needs and the fact that States and localities do not have access to the financial resources.

But we believe that the operation and the control of the school should be at the State level. This is actually what we are saying in every bit of testimony, in our comments on all of 6320.

Mr. ERLNBORN. Along a little different line, I sometimes wonder where the optimum point is in our financial support of education. Let me just relate to you the experience in my area.

Our local governments in Illinois are financed principally, almost wholly, from the real estate tax, the property tax, real and personal property. In the county in which I reside, Du Page County, Ill., about 80 cents of every property tax dollar goes to education. This is the principal support of education in our area. Twenty-five years ago we started some State support of education and increasingly year after year a larger proportion of the obligation of support of education was placed on the State.