

Chairman PERKINS. Mrs. Green.

Mrs. GREEN. Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I am well aware of the tremendous shortage of teachers and the urgent need to attract more teachers to the profession and also, that something must be done to see that they are retained in the profession, to make it attractive enough so that they will want to stay.

My question would be on alternatives to a National Teachers Corps. What if you were given the choice of having the same amount of money given to the universities to expand their teacher training programs which they are already engaged in and which involves the placement of teachers in schools or if we could give the same amount of money to a city school system and the State department of education to do the same job either in special institutes or inservice training programs, would your preference then be for a National Teacher Corps and, if so, why? What is it that the Commissioner of Education can do in the recruitment, and training, and placement of teachers that cannot be done by a State department or a university if they have the same amount of money?

I would make one footnote if I may. I think the one thing we must do in the Teachers Corps is to concentrate or focus attention on the critical shortage of teachers and we had better get to the job.

Dr. BYRNE. I would second your late note but I would see the same advantages with perhaps a greater degree of support if one were able to channel the same money to the central state agency which would be your department of education within the State and let that agency work out the arrangements with the local colleges, universities, and with the local agencies and the schools themselves.

I feel one could accomplish as much good. I do feel that the footnote that you have mentioned has been most helpful in that this has called attention to the crisis in education and particularly not just to the shortage of teachers but the shortage of teachers who are willing to work with the disadvantaged because there are not really that many people who are interested in these people.

Mrs. GREEN. Would you care to comment, Dr. Mattheis?

Dr. MATTHEIS. I think the doctor from St. Thomas has stated my position quite well. An outright grant to either of these institutions or a State plan arrangement for this particular area of teacher preparation I would concur that the attention given to teachers for these particular children is long overdue and we could properly place emphasis there and at the same time serve to meet some of the needs of the shortage of teachers generally.

I would feel it could be implemented at the State and local level very easily if in fact not better.

Mrs. GREEN. Which would you prefer if you had the choice?

Dr. MATTHEIS. I would prefer the latter, the State or college level. We have had many programs of training teachers who have been handled directly by the colleges and universities.

I think they have done exceptional work. Local schools are doing through title I great inservice work. It would be one short step away from additional responsibility and preparation of teachers. I would not really prefer. I guess at this point, I think it could be handled very well by either of these three local agencies.