

In sort of a self-protection for the Department of Education, I think, all of us around the country became very involved in them and in their direction and in the setting up of these regional laboratories feeling if we are part of the guiding force of it at least we would be participating in the decisions to be made within it.

I still have some concern about it. I am not sure these things could not be reasonably well done at the State level in each case. We have an upper midwest laboratory in our area and the chief State school officers of the state participating are represented on the executive group dealing with decisionmaking policies. We have some reservations about it but we had a reasonable degree of assurance that it was going to be established, so we got in there to participate in it and help direct it. However, I think we had some questions about its future.

Mr. STEIGER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman PERKINS. Thank you, Doctor Mattheis and Doctor Byrne for your appearances here today.

We are not by any means excusing you, but we are going to let you stand aside inasmuch as we now have other witnesses who wish to make a general statement. When we reconvene after lunch, you will sit at the table with the other witnesses as a panel for further questioning.

Mr. QUIE. I would like to add my word of thanks, too, for the excellent statements you have made, very provocative and you have served a very worthwhile function here.

I would also like to say for Commissioner Mattheis who is in the public eye in Minnesota.

Dr. Byrne, you have made what I think is the best statement that has been made here on this whole topic of the elementary and secondary school. I recognize that a prophet is not even safe within his own country.

I wish every member of the Legislature in Minnesota could have heard you today, and they would have been mighty impressed with the work you have done.

Mr. BELL. Mr. Chairman, from sunny California, the largest State in the Union, we have today two very distinguished guests who will be testifying, Dr. Ernest Willenberg, president of the Council for Exceptional Children, Los Angeles, Calif., would you come forward, Dr. Willenberg, and Dr. Bruce Miller, superintendent of schools of Riverside, Calif.

I would like to take this opportunity, Dr. Willenberg, to welcome you to the committee. We know of your excellent record in Los Angeles.

Mr. SCHEUER. I have three witnesses I would like to introduce.

Chairman PERKINS. Dr. William C. Greer, executive secretary, Council for Exceptional Children, would you come around to the table, also?

Msgr. James C. Donohue, director, Department of Education, National Catholic Welfare Conference and Mr. John Cicco.

Inasmuch as the gentlemen from New York have to leave in just a few moments, the witnesses from New York in the order that Mr. Scheuer wants them to proceed will proceed with a general statement.

Mr. SCHEUER. Dr. Niemeyer and Dr. Gordon Klopff and Mrs. Williams.