

I might detail these by referring to the new section 608 providing for the regional resource centers and support the concept of these regional resource centers by also suggesting that if these centers are approved and funded to the extent indicated that it would seem well that the centers be operated in conjunction with institutions of higher learning and, also, possibly in conjunction with the regional education board.

In those instances in which the educational board and institutions of higher learning would not be the appropriate administrative organizations, certainly State departments of education would have the prerogative and should be encouraged to exercise its leadership role in seeing that regional resource centers are able to function according to the intent of the proposed legislation.

Certainly, there is need for a better appraisal of the educational potentialities of exceptional children. This constitutes a serious problem throughout the Nation and we look forward to the time that these regional resource centers will be available so that more children who require special services because of handicapping conditions will have the opportunity of being identical.

In addition to that service of education of children with special needs, the resource centers would be authorized to help develop additional programs to meet these needs and to assist appropriate schools and organizations through consultation periodic reexamination, re-evaluation, and other types of technical services.

As the chairman of the committee indicated in introducing the administration proposals in the House of Representatives, the best current estimates are that there are 300,000 teachers of handicapped children needed, but that we have at present only approximately 70,000 currently employed. We are fully aware of the significance and importance of a nationwide recruiting campaign that would call to the attention of those who are potential teachers and workers with exceptional children, the opportunity that exists in working with this segment of the school population.

The council for exceptional children is pleased to report that it has a committee already at work and has an exemplary program already in existence for the recruitment of teachers for handicapped children in Illinois where through the Illinois federation of the council for exceptional children that council has developed a statewide plan to interest prospective candidates to enter the teacher preparation programs: 3,572 students, as a matter of fact, are enrolled with majors in special education in that State and we point to that as an example of what can be accomplished with some enthusiasm that would be encouraged on a nationwide basis through legislation.

We are fully in accord, also, with the extension of the provision of title 6 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to schools for Indian children and to the Defense Department overseas-dependent schools. We warmly endorse the proposed expansion of the caption film programs for the deaf to include all handicapped persons. We caution in our endorsement of this aspect of the amendments that the current program for captioned films not be reduced; that in the expansion of the program that the current program for