

Mr. BRADENAS. The Chair wants to observe that we have one more witness before we break for lunch, and if Mrs. Berkman would come forward we would be pleased to hear from her.

Dr. Wilson and Dr. Osview, we want to thank you for your appearance here today and giving us your views.

At this point I would ask unanimous consent to have inserted in the record a statement from the American Parents Committee, Inc. (The statement follows:)

STATEMENT OF THE AMERICAN PARENTS COMMITTEE, INC.

The American Parents Committee appreciates this opportunity to have our statement included in the record of hearings on the proposed Elementary and Secondary Education Amendments of 1967.

As a non-partisan, non-profit national organization which has devoted its twenty years of existence solely to support of Federal legislation for children, the American Parents Committee has supported provisions of the original Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. Our Board of Directors and National Council, comprised of over 100 nationally recognized leaders in child health, education and welfare, have also endorsed support of the Act's following amendments:

NATIONAL TEACHER CORPS

Although previously included in Higher Education legislation, the National Teacher Corps concept has now been more logically incorporated as a part of the Elementary and Secondary Education bill. Other changes in the original concept include requiring state approval of a local school district's request for volunteers, and permitting the local school system to reject any volunteer it finds unacceptable. Also, the salary paid to teacher-interns would be reduced below that now received as starting pay for teachers in the same district. These measures, we feel, will enhance the value of the Teacher Corps, both locally and nationally.

Departmental testimony has already provided ample documentation of the need for Teacher Corps assistance in deprived areas. An additional point we would like to emphasize, however, is the need of a "Fair Start" for one special group of underprivileged children, who could be particularly benefitted through Teacher Corps services. This special group is the kindergarten age group of five-year olds.

Many states in the past, and up to the present, have attempted to establish a state-wide system of public kindergartens—only to find the over-all costs too high. If the National Teacher Corps, without a categorical aid grant, could provide a substantial increase in the number of kindergarten teachers available in deprived areas, it would close the educational gap now existing between the initial benefit of Head Start programs and the first available grade in public school, for those areas.

COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATIONAL PLANNING

The need of such a "Fair Start" for five-year-olds may well be further documented through such studies as this planning section provides. Certainly, greater coordination among local, state, and federal educational agencies is needed to insure the best possible use of the public's tax dollar. The American Parents Committee heartily endorses this provision, with the understanding that maximum control will continue to rest at the State and local level of educational planning.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION GRANTS

To counter the present tide of over one million school drop-outs, the development of additional vocational education programs at the secondary level offers practical encouragement to such students. We would hope, however, that this development will not ultimately lead to early and rigid classification of all students as either "vocational" or "college material," with separate institutions for each classification.

Some distinguished critics of our secondary schools have in fact advocated this, citing the English system of giving written examinations to all 11-year-olds to