

pated energetically in the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped. We have made the resources of our collection of vocational films available to the captioned pictures for the deaf program. We played a leading role in the conference on vocational problems of the deaf which paved the way for the legislation establishing the National Technical Institute for the Deaf.

The regional centers, proposed in the bill, which would diagnose the educational needs of handicapped children and which would assist schools in meeting those needs could do much to help parents find appropriate schooling for handicapped children, a problem which is frustrating in many communities.

The severe shortage of special teachers trained in the special needs of physically and mentally handicapped children lends particular importance to the provision in the bill for the recruitment of personnel for this work.

And the rapid development of new educational tools and methods makes it especially timely to encourage emphasis upon developing educational media for handicapped children.

In most school systems today there are significant gaps. The schools simply cannot meet the needs of certain children because there are no facilities or teachers to deal with their special handicaps. This problem is especially true of children with multiple handicaps. H.R. 6230 promises new hope for those children.

Although H.R. 6230, in its present form, does not provide for the outright extension of Public Law 874 and Public Law 815, the impacted aid programs, Public Law 815 will expire on June 30, 1967, and we understand that this committee will be turning its attention to this matter. We urge the committee to propose extension of these laws which have contributed greatly to the improvement of education in many communities. We hope also that this Congress will extend the impacted aid program for a sufficient number of years to enable communities to make long-range plans. We would further urge that Public Law 874 and Public Law 815 be adjusted so that these two closely related laws have a common expiration date.

We understand also that the committee is not considering at this time the amendments to the Vocational Education Act of 1963 contained in title II of H.R. 6320. When you do turn to this section of the bill, we will want to share our thinking with you on these matters.

We believe that H.R. 6230 continues and extends the important gains which have been made in elementary and secondary education. At its recent meeting on February 23, 1967, the AFL-CIO executive council declared in a statement on "Education and the Federal Government":

The laws which have by now been enacted have contributed significantly to improving educational opportunity and toward achieving the goal of providing quality education for every child, wherever he may live and whatever his family background. From prekindergarten programs through graduate schools and adult education programs, the Federal Government has assumed responsibility for sharing in the costs of education.

For the vital role which this committee has played in bringing these things to pass, we express our deepest gratitude.

Thank you.

Chairman PERKINS. Again let me compliment you, Mr. Biemiller. I have several questions but I feel I should refrain until we hear from