

I would now like to call on my colleague, Mr. Roth.

Chairman PERKINS. Thank you very much, Mr. Mege! I want to compliment you on a fine statement. I feel just as you feel that we should go much further in the area of Federal aid to education, in the area of school construction, and expand the present programs.

I first want to address some questions to Mr. Biemiller. I notice you concluded your statement by suggesting that we extend—that we make an extension of the loans, not only of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act but 815 and 874. The testimony has been most impressive all through these hearings, and if we are unable to impress the Congress this year, and if this committee fails to extend these programs for a reasonable duration of time; I think we will be derelict in our responsibility because the chief complaint seems to be these local school agencies throughout the Nation cannot do any effective and wise planning because there is no stability in the legislation.

They just do not know whether it is going to be in existence or not for the next school year. I am hopeful, Mr. Biemiller, and I certainly agree with your suggestions, how long should we give this program some stability so that the Appropriations Committee may act early in the school year so the total educational districts can do their employing in April and May long before the end of the fiscal year.

It will be of great assistance in this legislation if we can put a reasonable duration period on these bills. How long would you suggest we should extend title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act beyond June 30, 1968, and all other titles of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act in order to get this program moving and to give the program confidence throughout the Nation?

Mr. BIEMILLER. I would think Mr. Chairman it would certainly not be a mistake to extend the impact bills for at least a 5-year authorization. Certainly in the foreseeable future there is not going to be any great diminution of the concept of Federal impact.

That law has been on the books now for a decade and a half or so. I think it has been demonstrated time after time both in terms of extending the authorization and in voting the appropriations for these two bills that the Congress is overwhelmingly in support of this proposal and, hence, I don't think that the Congress would be at all amiss to a making of a 5-year extension of the authorization.

Chairman PERKINS. I notice that you dwell on the Teachers Corps and the important principle of local control of education. Do you see anything wrong with the operation of the corps from infringing upon the rights of the local educational agencies, as the proposal is presently written, by permitting the Office of Education to do the recruiting?

Mr. BIEMILLER. I certainly see no difficulties there.

I would like to ask Mr. Sessions who is a member of the District of Columbia School Board to comment on that proposal.

Mr. SESSIONS. I am John Sessions of the AFL-CIO Education Department and as Mr. Biemiller said a member of the Washington School Board. Our experience has been very favorable with this. We have something in the neighborhood of "Teacher Corps" interns in our school system and like all teachers they are attached to the appropriate division of school system, those working in the secondary schools being directed by our division of secondary schools, and those