

Chairman PERKINS. Have you been able to notice some results as a result of the interns in these areas, favorable results?

Mr. SESSIONS. Of course, it is early to measure the impact of this on the learning experience of the children but I think it is quite clear that they have made contact with these children and I suspect in too many cases our school systems have not really made that much progress yet.

Chairman PERKINS. Have you had any problems recruiting qualified teachers at the present time to put them in the areas where we have real problems in the District of Columbia?

Mr. SESSIONS. We have some problems, and we have a rather novel program. I can underline what Mr. Biemiller was saying about the importance of long-term and long-range facilities and fiscal planning in a school system. Our whole school budget, not just the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and the impacted aid part of it but the whole scale program has to be acted upon by Congress and unfortunately does not usually get done until after the school system gets started and it is very difficult to employ teachers after the school year has already started.

So I can tell you from my own experience the real importance of being able to plan ahead on these things.

Chairman PERKINS. Thank you.

Now, Mr. Biemiller I want to ask you a basic question more or less on your past experiences and observations in our efforts to obtain Federal aid now throughout the years. I notice that you go ahead and mention the local control that is involved in so many of these programs and you give a history of the categorical aid approach in various pieces of legislation that have been enacted.

There are members on the committee at the present time who feel that we should go in the direction of a general Federal aid bill today as a substitute for what they term "categorical approach" even though we have not been successful in getting the general aid approach enacted for some 20 years.

Would you feel if we undertook to substitute the general aid approach and get away from the categorical approach in this legislation that we would have real problems in getting the bill enacted?

Mr. BIEMILLER. Mr. Chairman, it is my considered opinion that the Congress having tried or rather I should say the education committees of both Houses and having tried general aid bills for many years and having them defeated for a combination of reasons which were quite understandable when you analyze the voting habits and the backgrounds of the Members of the Congress, that the Congress has been very wise indeed to have turned to the categorical approach.

It is quite obvious that by this approach we have obtained the consent of a majority of both Houses of the Congress in authorizing and I hope eventually in appropriating considerable sums of money badly needed by our educational system. For whatever my view is worth I still believe that an attempt to return to a general aid system would run into difficulties that would probably make it impossible to pass legislation.

Chairman PERKINS. I only make mention of that fact because I know there are members on this committee who have not followed the history of the enactment of this legislation throughout the years.