

Considering the fact that vocational education was categorical in approach and that the NDEA when we zeroed in in the field of foreign languages, mathematics, and so on, and broadened out to other categories and at present we are zeroing in in some areas of the country under the Elementary and Secondary Act in the most disadvantaged areas of the Nation, where people reside with low income, giving them special educational programs.

I have one other question I want to ask you. I notice that you made mention of the handicapped legislation and the regional centers which would assist schools in meeting the needs and helping parents find the appropriate schooling for handicapped children. I have had correspondence all along through the years calling on me to see if I could give some advice where they can put their handicapped child in school.

I think this is a great amendment. The only difficulty I find with it is that it is not broad enough and it is not financed to the extent that I would like to see it financed but I agree with your statement there and I don't think there will be any objection to that amendment.

You gave excellent testimony, Mr. Megel and we appreciate it. Mr. Scherle.

Mr. SCHERLE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My first question would be: Are all of you at the table here affiliated with the AFL-CIO?

Mr. BIEMILLER. That is right; yes.

Mr. SCHERLE. I think I have one question for Mr. Sessions. The chairman asked whether there had been any intervention or problem concerning the Teacher Corps in regard to the university; is that right? You said "No"; is that right?

Mr. SESSIONS. I can't speak authoritatively for the universities but I think the answer would be "No" from what I know of their work.

Mr. SCHERLE. As long as this is partially funded by the Government, would there be any intervention?

Mr. SESSIONS. I did not quite get the question.

Mr. SCHERLE. As long as some of this money is being funded, would there dare be any intervention or problem occur along that line?

Mr. SESSIONS. The question as I got it from the chairman was: Had there been intervention in this program by the Office of Education, and I think here the answer is clearly "No."

Obviously the limits of the legislation in a sense are a kind of intervention. That is, you cannot use Teacher Corps interns in high-income schools, and this is a kind of intervention but I don't think that is what was meant.

Mr. SCHERLE. I noticed in the testimony here that there has been quite a bit of reference made to the inner city poverty. Are you as concerned about the rural areas as you are the inner city?

Mr. BIEMILLER. We are most certainly concerned about rural problems. We simply testify in our formal statement on the question of the inner city because obviously our own experiences as far as the AFL-CIO are concerned are closer connected to that problem.

But the whole question of rural poverty, of the difficulties of many rural school systems have long remained—received our attention. As the chairman was kind enough to say, for more than 20 years we have been up here trying to get attention paid to rural problems just as much as we have to city problems.