

I would like to direct my first question to Mr. Sessions if I may and on page 3 of his prepared statement Mr. Biemiller said, speaking of the Teacher Corps:

It has brought into the inner city school something of the same spirit that the Peace Corps previously brought to undeveloped areas in other parts of the world.

Do you agree with that, Mr. Sessions?

Mr. SESSIONS. I think that is quite true. These interns are dedicated people who work with these children around the clock and they have brought very much that kind of a spirit.

Mr. MEEDS. Do you feel further that the Teacher Corps concept has the effect of infusing the young people, and some of the dedicated teachers of this Nation, with an esprit de corps which would not be available on a local level?

Mr. SESSIONS. I think so and I think this has a way of spreading together teachers around as Mr. Biemiller suggested.

Mr. MEEDS. I am not suggesting, and I am sure you are not suggesting either, that local school boards could not put in effective training programs and effective programs for disadvantaged children, but on the national level we would not have the dual advantages of a program which had a center core and a direction and also the ability to bring this dedication out in people as the Peace Corps has done on an interim basis?

Mr. SESSIONS. Yes, I think it is very much the same sort of situation as if we had taken the Peace Corps money and simply used it for increased foreign aid, and I suspect it would not have had nearly as beneficial an effect, and I think that is true here also.

Mr. MEEDS. Is this one of the primary reasons that you support the Teacher Corps?

Mr. SESSIONS. Yes, sir.

Mr. MEEDS. Mr. Biemiller, I am somewhat puzzled and I suppose this is in the area of your legislative background too so to speak. I would like to point out you have been a Member of this body for 4 years, and you have been the representative of the AFL-CIO for a number of years so that in the final analysis you have been very intimately and very closely connected with either posing or passing legislation through this Congress since about 1949 I think, isn't that true?

Mr. BIEMILLER. I was a Member of the 79th and 81st and I have been a representative of the labor movement since 1935.

Mr. MEEDS. You testified before this committee as a member, and as a Member of Congress in numerous attempts to pass aid to education, have you not?

Mr. BIEMILLER. That is right.

Mr. MEEDS. You have been legislative representative for the AFL-CIO and have come up to the Hill any number of times and talked to Members about the passage of aid-to-education legislation, have you not?

Mr. BIEMILLER. That is right.

Mr. MEEDS. It is my observation that you are probably the most knowledgeable, or one of the most knowledgeable people, in the whole United States as to what makes Congress tick and what will go and what won't go in Congress. That is my aside, Mr. Chairman.