

Senator Cotton, for example, of New Hampshire, has long advocated a system of Federal scholarships for doctors whereby the graduate doctor would then agree to go into shortage areas. This is not something that is peculiar to teachers that the Federal Government has tried to stimulate through the use of Federal funds, the strengthening of other professions besides teaching.

Mr. GARDNER. On page 4 you say:

The Teacher Corps gives promise of injecting new vitality into the schools and at the same time maintaining the important principle of local control of education.

How do you see a combination of control between the Federal Government and local government? Who has the final authority?

Mr. BIEMILLER. The bill in front of you makes it clear that no school board has to accept Applicant Jack Jones unless they want to.

Mr. GARDNER. It also states that Federal funds can be withheld. This seems to be some of the problem we are facing today in complaints from our local school boards. Although they are giving word service in the form of local control if they don't abide by not what the bill says but by interpretations of the Department of Education then funds are withheld.

Mr. BIEMILLER. I am not aware of those situations. If you want to bring concrete situations to our attention we would be happy to check into them but in our experience, and I don't pretend to know everything there is about the Teacher Corps, we have not run into that situation.

Chairman PERKINS. Mr. Steiger.

Mr. STEIGER. Mr. Biemiller, good morning. It is a pleasure to have a former member of the Wisconsin Legislature as well as a distinguished Member of Congress here. I was very interested in the testimony, not only that you gave, but that Mr. Megel gave. I wonder if I could ask Mr. Sessions what is the situation with the District of Columbia school system insofar as teaching assistants or paraprofessionals are concerned.

Do you have a program here for this kind of teacher aid?

Mr. SESSIONS. We do have a program. We have a unique situation of course in the District's school system in our relationship to the Congress and you may remember that the Teachers' Salary Act which Congress passed last year places a limitation upon the number of teacher aids that we can employ in the school system.

I question the wisdom of that decision. I am not quite clear how it came about but within the limitation that Congress allows us we are training teacher aids and using them quite effectively in the schools.

I think we could use far more of them if we had the power to do it.

Mr. STEIGER. Mr. Megel, prior to the advent of the Teacher Corps, had the Federation undertaken any kind of a program aimed at trying to encourage within educational institutions and schools of education specific programs designed to train teachers to serve in disadvantaged areas?

Mr. MEGEL. Not to any great extent excepting that our efforts are always directed toward improving teachers' salaries and working conditions in order to attract teachers into the teaching profession. The fact that people in other occupations with less training make a lot more money, it has always mitigated against teachers and high school graduates—every teacher knows he has a high school teacher in his class