

Mr. SIMMONS. Thank you very much, Mr. Ford. I am delighted to be here with my colleagues.

I will go directly to the point of the impact legislation rather than spending any time discussing the amendments of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, and I am sure these were conducted in great detail on last Wednesday when our great city school superintendent attended here and stayed with this committee until almost 6 o'clock in the evening.

My interest in Public Laws 874 and 815 go back over the years when I was an impacted school district in Congressman Ford's congressional district. More recently, through the action of this committee last year, your liberalizing amendments, now all of our great cities—and when I speak of the great cities' organization, I am speaking of those 17 school districts that have the largest school populations in the country—I might say I am staff chairman of their Federal legislative program, so I am in the business of collecting the statistics that relate to the effect of your liberalizing amendments on those districts during the past 2 years.

I would point out that this legislation, though, before I discuss anything specific, seems to me to have developed some real merit over the years as time has gone on. It has been my observation and it was one of the reasons why I worked considerably with the Congress in trying to see all of the school districts of this Nation qualify.

I would say, Mr. Meeds, your question concerning general aid to education, I think Public Law 874 does indeed provide a real conveyance for a wider application of the general fund moneys that flow from that. I would say also that Public Law 815 could certainly be expanded to take care of many needs we had.

Mr. MEEDS. If I may interrupt, I would suggest you press this strongly with Congressman Ford and the problem you have.

Mr. SIMMONS. I can assure you this will not be my last discussion with Mr. Ford concerning this particular matter. I think Public Law 815 provides an excellent possibility for providing construction funds that are badly needed in the metropolitan areas.

I speak also of many of the suburbs also that many of you gentlemen here serve.

I want to say I am completely in agreement with the need for an extension of Public Law 815, of course. I would say in that regard that we cannot ignore this need for appropriations for this particular piece of legislation.

Mr. Rose indicated that scaling down even the barest requirements of his survey it would be difficult to fund those construction needs that have all of the elements of eligibility for less than \$100 million.

Even though there is only going to be one large city, that of San Diego qualifying for funds, should the Congress see fit to make full appropriations, we certainly are in favor of this kind of money going to construct needed school facilities for boys and girls.

There is a proposal in by Representative Pucinski of this committee that I am particularly interested in. That is one that adds a new category of eligible pupils to Public Law 874 and these would be pupils living in low-cost housing.