

In our ever-increasing local contribution rate, and I mentioned that Oklahoma increased its tax levying possibilities by 40 percent a year ago, that we will soon catch up with that without hurting the schools financial approach.

Mr. STEIGER. Would any of the others of you be willing—if we can pass over impact area for a moment—would you be willing to give me the benefit of your thinking about such questions as, for example, whether we ought to transfer title III's responsibility from the Office of Education to a State plan operation?

Mr. ROSE. I don't know whether I would be competent to specifically comment on that but I think any educational program, if at all possible, should be administered through the designated agency within a State for the administration of the State educational program.

I do not know about this one. Whether that would prevent the new concept that we have and which has been paramount, frankly, in getting legislation enacted whether that would eliminate the relationship that we have tried to build up between public and private schools or not.

I don't know.

Mr. TAYLOR. May I respond to that a moment, Mr. Steiger?

Mr. STEIGER. Yes.

Mr. TAYLOR. Coming from Colorado, I understand under title III we had the highest percent of programs funded as any in the Nation and I believe this is still right.

We found that many of our so-called good programs and programs we thought were best were not accepted perhaps at the Federal level because there was a lack of understanding as to what the needs might be in the State.

Although I am not dissatisfied with the present way, I believe we could strengthen the program by having the State departments, strong State departments of education, have a greater say in it. They are the people more closely associated with the problems.

Mr. SIMMONS. I think on this question we need a statement from the Office of Education as to how much weight they do give to the recommendations of the State departments of education in the various States on the project submitted.

I can say, having been party to this for some time, that whether or not a plan has been adopted by a State that the Office of Education to my knowledge very seldom if ever has moved without a recommendation from the State educational agency in regard to that type of project.

Mr. STEIGER. It has moved in a very small number of cases.

Mr. SIMMONS. Very small, and I suppose the question comes up whether or not you said they first had to pass that approval in the State agency and whether or not that would indeed do more damage than under the present arrangement.

Mr. STEIGER. In your view it might tend to do more damage?

Mr. SIMMONS. I suppose the question could come up in my own mind—and this is my own personal opinion rather than the group I represent—I sometimes wonder if on this particular type of project we are discussing whether or not the very separateness within a State sometimes would not because of the organization of that State in