

Chairman PERKINS. You can run through all of these amendments.

Mr. LILLYWHITE. The first ones will be very brief. We got disaster assistance given to the Office of Education under Public Law 89-313. That is the repair and rebuilding of schools destroyed in major disasters or damaged or destroyed in major disasters.

In November 1965 that had a life of 2 years. We have had this year and a half operation under it.

Chairman PERKINS. Has it worked well?

Mr. LILLYWHITE. It has. It took us a little while to get acquainted with it and they made it retroactive to cover Hurricane Betsy when commitments were made by the operating agency and it took a bit of doing to get squared away 3 months after the damage occurred and one authority made certain commitments to 25 or 30 school districts down there as to what they would do.

Chairman PERKINS. I remember the situation. We had it on the floor then.

Mr. LILLYWHITE. We are working that out but the disaster assistance legislation has seemed to me to work with a remarkably small cost. We have not had any major disasters like Betsy but there were 11 last year and two this year.

The total cost so far to this Office is less than \$500,000. The question might be raised why is it necessary to have such authority if the amount is so small.

I think that the answer to that would be something like this, that it is highly important to the few school districts that are involved.

Most States have good insurance programs. But the insurance does not take care of all of it and there are certain types of things such as water damage that cannot be insured against.

So, to have the authority there so that they know they can go ahead and make the repairs so children can get back in school, and when the building is destroyed have some authority to help them set up a temporary school so the children can go to school while they are rebuilding the school, it seems to me is worth while having.

Now we found just two or three things in it that we have recommended for technical changes. One of them is something like this. Most of the repair damage to disasters is putting on a roof, refinishing the floor, putting in windows, buying new supplies and equipment, and this is done normally by a school district with its operating funds. We have an amendment in there that just adds, the 874 part of the amendment "repair" so we can just do it normally like the school districts do it. That is a very small one.

Another one is we want to put a diminimus on the amount for assistance. When you make a field trip up to northern Minnesota on the Red River Valley or in South Dakota or some other place where the Red River overflowed we get an application in here for \$50.

The law contains authority for us to grant assistance over a 5-year period on a diminishing basis each year if the economy of the community is destroyed to the extent where they can provide assistance but it says you can operate schools at the level the full year preceding that or the disaster.

Costs, as you know, are going up and you don't operate at the same level so we are asking them to take out the "at the level." The other one is the extension of the law for a period of 5 years.