

ing and precise testimony that has been presented to this committee, precise recommendation of what to do. I am particularly impressed with your work with regard to the expenditures of funds by National, State, and local governments and with your precise suggestions as to what we ought to do in the authorization and appropriation cases so we get by this impasse which we know has been created in funding of these programs.

Also, your request for full funding and all of your suggestions, may I say I agree heartily with them.

Having said that, now may I ask you one question.

Last year, or 1965, you people were before this committee and gave some very good testimony with regard to this bill when it was initially before us, and I recall some of that testimony and asked to get this prepared testimony. At that time you said:

Among the elements of control, NSBA believes initiative programming by local communities are the following: (1) the right to organize a school system in terms of particular overall personnel; (2) the right to adapt facilities to local needs; and (3) to regulate which funds available to the local district shall be expended as best determined by the Board of Education and the citizens of the local community.

These were the caveats that you laid down with your support for this legislation.

Now may I just ask you if you think that you have been able to retain all of those things which were requested and this, pretty well, from your standpoint?

Mr. ACKERMAN. Well, I would say I have certainly not heard a great deal of criticism on the way it has operated upon to this particular point. I think there are still some fears on the part of many school board people and there is certainly a hope that this local control will still be maintained.

Mr. MEEDS. Thank you very much.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman PERKINS. Go ahead.

Mr. ACKERMAN. I am Joe Ackerman, president of the National School Boards Association and member of the Elmhurst (Illinois) Board of Education. I am accompanied by our executive director, Dr. Harold V. Webb, and then also our director of Federal and congressional relations, Mr. Paul N. Carlin, and also Mr. Hugh Calkins, who is a member of the Cleveland School Board. He serves on our legislative committee.

The National School Boards Association is a nonprofit federation of the State school board associations of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Virgin Islands. Our association, through its member State school board associations represents more than 86,000 elected and appointed local school board members. These citizen leaders serve voluntarily on the governing boards of their local school districts without compensation. In many communities, this amounts to a part-time assignment with virtually full-time responsibility.

The National School Boards Association is the only national organization representing local school boards and its primary objective is the strengthening of public education through active citizen participation in the policymaking process of educating our children.