FULL FUNDING OF TITLE I—SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

The estimated ESEA title I authorization for fiscal year 1968 was $2.4 billion vis-a-vis the actual budgetary request of the administration for only one-half ($1.2 billion) of that amount. Though this budget figure estimate represents a 13-percent increase, a 100-percent gap still remains.

In addition, the National School Boards Association has noted that while the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (Public Law 89–10), the ESEA Amendments of 1966 (Public Law 89–750), and the committee reports on these bills clearly enunciated the congressional intent that title I funds be utilized, among other purposes, for "the construction of school facilities and plans made or to be made for such programs, projects, and facilities," the official policy position of the U.S. Office of Education is that title I is not a construction-type of a program.

For this reason, only $97 million (9.95 percent) of the estimated expenditures under this program were authorized for school construction projects in fiscal year 1966. During the current fiscal year, 1967, the amount allowed for public school construction was decreased to $81 million (7.95 percent).

By way of comparison, during the past year, public elementary and secondary school districts spent $3.6 billion for capital outlay purposes and completed some 72,600 classrooms. Nonetheless, this rate of construction only took care of the existing increase rate, not the backlog.

Current estimates place the existing backlog need at some 350,000 new classrooms and some 230,000 renovated classrooms. The cost of erasing this backlog, plus maintaining the present rate of school construction, will approximate some $50 billion or $5 billion per year for 10 years.

It is our opinion that the most pressing unmet educational need in America today is for adequate financial resources to aid in the cooperative financing of school construction, remodeling, and rennovation projects.

We recommend that the estimated ESEA title I authorization for fiscal year 1968 be fully funded and that a substantial portion of this increase be made available for the construction, remodeling, and renovation of public school buildings.

Chairman PERKINS. Mr. Ackerman, you made a very good statement. If there is no objection, I understand that Dr. Lund, senior vice president of Scott, Foresman & Co., American Book Publishers Council, and American Textbook Publishers Institute, has to catch a plane at 5:45. Is that correct?

Mr. LUND. Yes, sir.

Chairman PERKINS. Would you want to come up here and briefly summarize your statement and insert it in the record?

Mr. LUND. I know they are in the same position.

Chairman PERKINS. All of you are in the same position?

Mr. LUND. I will join them, but I will wait.

Mr. ACKERMAN. You have the remainder of the report.

Chairman PERKINS. Just a moment.

How many other witnesses?