

"\* \* \* producing and distributing educational media for the use of handicapped persons, their parents, their actual or potential employers, and other persons directly involved in work for the advancement of the handicapped \* \* \*"

Commissioner Howe, in his prepared statement of March 2 on the bill, explained and justified this provision in the following way:

The U.S. Office of Education may now support research regarding educational media. This is generally restricted to research concerning the effectiveness of existing media. With the exception of the specific authority under the Captioned Films for the Deaf program there is no authorization to enter into contracts for the development of new media. There is no authorization which would permit specialized training programs to train specialists in the use of such media nor is there any authorization which would permit involvement in the production of such materials or media except for that under the Captioned Films program. Although the Office of Education has no particular interest in the production and distribution of educational materials there are some instances where this can be important. For example, there is some value in the support of sheltered workshops for adolescent-aged retarded or otherwise handicapped youngsters. Such support would indirectly or directly require support for production of materials produced in the workshops.

The support for the development of instructional media is particularly important at this time. Development costs run high, yet the future of education for the handicapped may well depend upon the availability of media not yet off the drawing boards.

Although the granting of authority to the U.S. Office of Education to get into the business of producing and distributing educational materials is limited in this provision of the bill to the production of such materials for the handicapped, their parents, their employers and other persons involved, this authority strikes us as being unwise in itself and a bad precedent. Unlike the situation in some other countries, the U.S. Federal Government has not been responsible for the production and distribution of educational materials. This has been left to private enterprise and to some extent to nonprofit organizations and the result has been, I believe, better and more abundant educational materials than exist in any other country.

As you well know, there have been many examples. This is a Benjamin Franklin done in large type by a man, Keith Jennison, who has really mobilized the private sector to accomplish this kind of thing. We do not think we are far apart in this respect, and we believe that there can be working appropriately prepared to enlist in this instance the resources of the private sector.

May I just add one word in closing. I spent some 10 years of my life working in the Chicago public schools concerned with the programs for the handicapped. No comment here should interpret any less concern than most of you have for effective programs in this field. We are just anxious that you use the full resources of the education community, including the private sector in this respect, and we would both endorse, support, and try to find ways of implementing and disseminating this kind of research.

It is only the question of entering directly into the publishing business.

Chairman PERKINS. Let me ask you one question. You people in the National School Boards Association and other witnesses all endorse the National Teachers Corps, the national recruiting and Office of Education?

Mr. LUND. That is a question for you.