

It is my understanding that the administration witnesses will be back inasmuch as Mr. Gardner of North Carolina has expressed a desire through minority counsel to question witnesses concerning the guidelines.

Therefore, I am going to ask you particular witnesses to come back at 9:30 a.m. on Monday morning and under no circumstance will we delay the markup of this bill commencing on Tuesday morning. I have always felt that any member who wanted to ask any witness a question should have that opportunity.

Mr. DELLENBACK. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman PERKINS. For that reason I want to ask you to come back. Let me thank you all for a good appearance here this morning and we appreciate your appearance.

Chairman PERKINS. Our next witness is Superintendent Bueford Risner, superintendent of Bath County schools, Owingsville, Ky.

I appreciate your coming here, Mr. Risner.

STATEMENT OF BUEFORD RISNER, SUPERINTENDENT OF BATH COUNTY SCHOOLS, OWINGSVILLE, KY.

Mr. RISNER. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, may I express my deep appreciation for the opportunity to appear before you to express the views of the people in our rural eastern Kentucky area on this very important legislation.

In my opinion the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 was one of the finest pieces of legislation that has ever been enacted. It has meant that many children in Bath County are a step nearer equal educational opportunities than they were before.

The act had enabled our system to purchase some much needed instructional equipment and materials, library shelving, books, audio-visual materials, et cetera, and has provided us with the services to two remedial reading teachers, a guidance counselor, school health services, with a registered nurse, and 19 teacher aids this year.

The many good things about the act would take too much of your time for me to enumerate. I would like to confine my remarks to some of the frustrations that I and many of my fellow educators have encountered relative to certain aspects of Federal aid to education and some suggestions for improving the act.

1. The timing of Federal authorizations, appropriations, regulations and allocations is not conducive to encouraging logical and methodical planning on the part of local and State school officials.

Federal aid to education could be much more effective if congressional authorization patterns and school years could become more compatible.

2. The bulk of Federal funds for education should come to the States under a minimum foundation type of approach that is based on an objective formula which would consider the financial ability of a State to support education.

3. All of the Federal funds coming to a State for elementary and secondary education should be routed through the State departments of education. In my opinion there should be no exception to this approach. State departments of education are, and necessarily should be, the most capable agency to work the local school districts.