

Mrs. LEVIN. Mr. Chairman, Congressman Scheuer, and other members of the committee, I should like to say on behalf of the citizens' committee that we are honored to be here today and we appreciate and welcome the opportunity to bring to your committee our observations on the use of the funds provided by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act in New York City.

We share with you the opinion that these funds were not for the purpose of general aid but rather to provide additional moneys which are so essential if we are going to reach and provide effective education for our culturally and educationally deprived children.

In the testimony which has been distributed to you, we make six points as recommendations for legislative amendments to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. I should like to amplify to some extent.

No. 1. We ask that you mandate that change in budgeted program amounts approved by the Office of Education that exceed 10 percent of their original budget be resubmitted through the same approval procedure.

I should like to refer to the appended sheets which will bear out and demonstrate the reason for this suggested amendment. The first column which shows a total of over \$50 million represents the final allocation projected in the expense budget as of July 1, 1966, as presented at a public hearing.

There were numerous subsequent hearings at which there were fragmentary considerations of proposals. There was never an opportunity to get a picture of a comprehensive overall plan but, rather, it seemed to us a patchwork of bits and pieces without design and without pattern.

In December the budget request of the superintendent of schools showed changes reflected as of October 19. These figures are represented in the second column.

As of January 31, 1967, by dint of extensive and intensive digging on the part of our staff, we were able to get from the office of business affairs of the board of education the modified budget figures listed in column 3.

A cursory glance alone reveals something rather interesting. Pages 3 and 4 have in the first column a series of zeros indicating that there had been absolutely no provision made at the outset for these programs, which were added on later without benefit of a comprehensive listing, when it became known that more funds would be available. Review indicates that some of the figures that appear in the final column represent increases up to 400 percent.

We have been following the prekindergarten programs in New York City and have issued two reports on them dated June 1965 and October 1966 and, therefore, have a special interest in how funds are expended for early childhood education. May I call your attention to the prekindergarten expenditure. There has been an increase of 80 percent in the original allocation of July 1, 1966.

We are delighted to see increased funds channeled into prekindergarten education because, on the basis of what we have seen, we believe in its potential wholeheartedly. If you will look immediately below under "Kindergarten," you will see that the original allocation of \$1,039,503 was eliminated as of January 31, 1967.