

ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION AMENDMENTS 1715

preparing teachers for the disadvantaged or poverty stricken areas. In our opinion, it is extremely important that Congress act now to continue the National Teachers Corps in the Macy Public Schools. At present we are trying to upgrade the general educational opportunities of our children through: (1) A Head Start Program, (2) Extended day classes, and (3) Neighborhood Youth Corps projects. Recently, we have read several accounts as to the importance of follow-up educational programs for the Head Start Program. This is exactly what the Teacher Corps is doing in our elementary school system. Along with this, the Corps members have helped with the extended day classes and with the Neighborhood Youth Corps project. It performs an extremely valuable service that is not offered by any other agency in our community.

We are sure that you are familiar with the course that the Corps has taken, as well as the educational gaps that it hopes to fill. Originally, Congress authorized the Teacher Corps—especially conceived to develop new and better ways to educate poor children—with a nine and one-half million dollar appropriation in 1965. Under this authorization the U.S. Office of Education offered college graduates special training for teaching in school districts of great poverty, and the chance to use part of their time to work toward a masters degree at a nearby university. A double boon—more specially qualified teachers for very poor school districts, and more potentially qualified teachers getting ready to help meet the national deficiency of 100,000 teachers. In competing against such a shortage of teachers, it is inevitable that the schools in poor districts would suffer most and usually end up with the least qualified. These are some of the compelling reasons why the National Teachers Corps has been praised by almost every professional educational group in the country—national, state, and local—as being well conceived, urgently needed, and practical.

From on the scene observations in Macy, we have observed the four corps members at work and are very impressed with their realistic and determinative approach to the problems they have encountered. The impact they have made upon our local educational system has been felt by every person in our community. Their accomplishments far out-weigh the cost of the program to the government.

President Johnson stated in his inaugural address that it would be the duty of the federal administration to promote opportunities for the American Indian which would enhance and expand their participation in American society, or to place them in the "mainstream" of American life. This cannot be considered lightly, and cannot be resolved within two decades. The proposed "Omnibus Bill" which is being prepared for submission to Congress by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs cannot solve the problems of American Indians and we have repeatedly opposed this proposed legislation at various meetings throughout the nation. Recommendations which we submitted to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs stressed the need of education, health, housing and employment on Indian reservations. These recommendations have not been included in the proposed Indian legislation. Education of our youth is the forethought of every Indian tribal council in the nation, and we realize that the President's wishes cannot be carried out until we prepare the present generation for their way in life by proper educational opportunities. The Teachers Corps is just a step in the right direction.

As you are well aware, the National Teachers Corps has been funded only through June, 1967. If after this time the Corps has not received additional appropriations it will be doomed, and Macy will lose a valuable community asset. In view of this, we urgently request that you and your colleagues favorable consider continuation of the National Teachers Corps.

Sincerely yours,

ALFRED W. GILPIN, *Chairman.*

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN,
Washington, D.C., March 21, 1967.

HON. CARL D. PERKINS,
Chairman of Committee on Education and Labor, U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. PERKINS: The AAUW would like to be included in the record of the hearings in support of the Elementary and Secondary Education Amendments of 1967. As you and many members of the Committee know from our many appearances before your Committee the AAUW is staunch in its belief in generous funding for the nation's public schools. We believe equally in Federal sharing of financial support.