

1716 ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION AMENDMENTS

We continue to support assistance programs for disadvantaged children and the Teacher Corps program. We believe progress already has been made under the Teacher Corps and are of the opinion that under proper funding it could prove increasingly effective. We believe the steps taken in the legislation to clarify local control provisions and to provide for state agency approval will be helpful.

We in AAUW have been concerned for many years that Indian children be given equal educational opportunities and welcome any efforts in that direction. We also wish to express our approval of efforts to assist the education of the handicapped.

It has been the position of the Association for many years that a critical link in the nation's school system was the state agency. Therefore we welcome the attempts to strengthen this link which are to be found in HR 6230.

As we have said to this Committee in other years, in our estimation, one of the most critical problems facing our schools under programs providing Federal assistance is the uncertainty, the inability to program effectively which every school administrator faces each year because he hasn't accurate information about his resources for the coming year. This problem is created, as every member of this Committee knows, by the fact that enactment of authorization and appropriation legislation so often occurs substantially after the beginning of the school year and certainly months after the planning has been done for the school year for which the appropriations are made. We sincerely hope this Committee will find some solution to this problem which we believe to be particularly troublesome at the elementary and secondary school level.

Dr. VICTORIA SCHUNK,
Chairman, Legislative Program Committee.

Dr. LOIS ROTH,
Area Representative, Education Legislative Program Committee.

SEATTLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS,
Seattle, Wash., March 30, 1967.

HON. CARL D. PERKINS,
Chairman, House Education and Labor Committee,
House Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. PERKINS: The Elementary and Secondary Education Act funds allocated to our school district during the past two years have enabled the community, and the professional staff, to design innovative programs for the children of economically impoverished families.

You may be assured, we have tried to eliminate the deep-rooted causes of the learning disabilities among these children. If the program is continued, some permanent solution may be the result. We urge you and the members of your committee to support a full appropriation for PL 89-10 during 1967-68.

Sincerely yours,

FORBES BOTTOMLY,
Superintendent of Schools.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,
Lansing, Mich., March 31, 1967.

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

DEAR CONGRESSMAN PERKINS: I am sorry that I was unable to attend the hearings on the President's Elementary and Secondary Education Bill. I do have some reactions to portions of it which I would like to present for your Committee's consideration.

The President's proposal for a \$44 million appropriation for adult basic education is most important to us in Michigan.

We have had a disconcerting year in which we have had to shorten the hours per week and reduce the weeks per year of adult education available to the people who are enrolled in those programs in Michigan. We have had to do that because in 1966-67 the Congress did not appropriate to the limit of the authorization, even though that limit had to be obtained if the level of programs undertaken in 1965-66 was to be funded.

Adult basic education is one of the cornerstones of our program to help the poor and the deprived. We are spending \$258,000 of State aid, \$757,000 of Federal aid, and \$120,000 of local funds now; and where in 1963 we had only 4,400 enrolled in adult education, today we have 13,000 and tomorrow we can double that with a minimum of recruiting.