

Madam Chairman, I am grateful to you and other members of the subcommittee for giving us this opportunity to express the views of higher education. We shall be glad to answer your questions or to submit further statements on questions which we are not prepared to answer today.

Mrs. GREEN. Thank you very much, President Gross.

The first question is in regard to funding. Since you have not touched on it in your statement, I take it you approve the amount of funds suggested for the various titles.

When the American Council appears before this committee and testifies on the authorization, the amount to be appropriated, do you consider that a minimum amount or do you consider that a ceiling?

Mr. MORSE. Excuse me, I think Mr. Gross is passing this one to me. I want to make sure I understand the question. What authorizations in this bill are we discussing?

Mrs. GREEN. This is really a general question, there are a lot of authorizations in this bill, but I am really asking the question in regard to your general testimony in support of education bills when there is a specified amount for a particular year.

When you testify, do you consider that as the minimum amount that is needed to accomplish the purpose or do you consider it the ceiling?

Mr. MORSE. No, with the exception of 1 year; namely, last year, when, I think probably mistakenly, we were concerned with the total Federal budget rather than with the needs of higher education.

With the exception of last year, what we seek to do is request the authorizations which we believe will meet the needs of higher education. Thus last year, as I think you will recall, we urged authorizations of approximately the magnitude which this committee later adopted for fiscal 1968 and fiscal 1969.

We urged it because we believed this was the amount of the Federal share required to build the facilities necessary to take care of the future students.

As we look at those authorizations now, assuming the Federal share will be approximately one-third of the total construction, those authorizations seem to us to be pretty much on target.

The appropriations requests are a different thing but the authorizations contained in the Facilities Act, for example, seem to us to be just about what they should be if one assumes the Federal share should be about 33 percent.

Mrs. GREEN. The reason I ask this question is that just this week I had conversations with people interested in education legislation raising the question over the administration request for appropriations this year in relation to the authorization. For example, in the Higher Education Facilities Act the amount was \$728 million. I believe you testified in favor of that. The request for appropriation, however, is only \$390 million which is only 54 percent, really a cut of over \$300 million there. The conversation then went on but when we asked for authorizations, this is the ceiling, and the appropriation could be anywhere up to that amount.

This makes a great deal of difference to this committee, whether we are requesting the amount of money in terms of the ceiling or in terms of the educational needs of the community. I want your reaction to this kind of debate.