

Mr. LUMLEY. It is a pleasure to be here before the committee. I think it is my first opportunity to testify before your committee.

Mrs. GREEN. You have neglected us; we have been here for quite a while.

Mr. LUMLEY. I know the NEA has been here.

On the first page of the statement I would call your attention to the fact the NEA is a many-headed monster in that we have many organizations.

Mrs. GREEN. I don't know about that; you said that.

Mr. LUMLEY. There are 33 constituent special interest departments in the NEA complex. They do not always agree in every detail with the position of the parent organization. With me today are representatives of two of these departments. Dr. Ronald Uhl, representing the department of audiovisual instruction, and Dr. Howard S. Decker, executive secretary of the American Industrial Arts Association, and they will be presenting statements.

Two members of the staff of the division of Federal relations, Mrs. Mary Gereau and Mr. Richard Carrigan, are also with me today.

In general, the National Education Association supports H.R. 6232 as we have in the past supported the National Defense Education Act, the Higher Education Facilities Act, the Higher Education Act, and the National Vocational Student Loan Facilities Act. All of these laws have made significant contributions to improving the quality of American education. Their main thrust, to provide greater opportunity for individuals to improve their professional competence is, of course, not only important to the individuals but also to the Nation's economic and social development. We regret only that the programs are too meagerly financed and thus too limited, especially in the number of student aids of all types which they provide.

We have read the testimony presented by the American Council of Education, and as a constituent member of that organization we concur with the formal testimony presented by Dr. Gross yesterday. It is not necessary to repeat the points he made, especially as they pertain to details of the higher education amendments.

For the convenience of the committee, I believe it preferable to present our comments on the bill item by item as they appear in the draft legislation. However, I would like to comment first on what we believe to be a serious departure from acceptable practice which appears several times in this bill and is a development which is a recurring feature in various administration proposals relative to education before the 90th Congress.

Mrs. GREEN. I may have to leave and I wonder if my colleagues would object if I asked a couple of questions.

Mr. GIBBONS. Please proceed.

Mrs. GREEN. I read the first couple of pages of your statement. I think it is great, perhaps because it agrees with my views.

I notice you express some concern over what I think is a real trend in the Office of Education to contract with profitmaking institutions and corporations for a great deal of the business of education. Would you read part of your statement there on that and then let me ask—summarize it or whatever you want to—the reasons for your feeling this way and what you see if this trend continues?