

Mr. SWERDLOFF. We start out with the basic statistics which are collected by the Office of Education and we go further into these areas in connection with providing information for vocational counseling.

They are trying to find out the characteristics of the schools. They don't prepare occupational outlook information for counseling of students interested in teaching or any other field.

So we utilize their data. In regard to the National Science Foundation, we do work for them under contract. It is in terms of how many people are in scientific occupations, what kind of training they need, what the trends, and future requirements are.

Mrs. GREEN. Would it make better administrative procedure, and would it be at least better if we gave you some extra authority if that is what you need, rather than give the authority now to the Office of Education to do what it seems to me you are doing?

Mr. ROSS. Mrs. Green, I am sure that the Department of Labor would undertake any assignment that Congress might want to give it. Our general view is that the work of the Office of Education, the Department of Labor, and the National Science Foundation complement and supplement each other rather than overlap.

We are very short of personnel ourselves and so I have no interest in doing something that the other agencies do, and I expect the other agencies may have the same feeling.

If Congress should feel that a reorganization of the functions would be more efficient, then we would be glad to do whatever the assignment is.

Mrs. GREEN. I appreciate the figures which you gave me last week on very short notice in terms of overall shortage of personnel.

Mr. ROSS. Thank you.

Mrs. GREEN. You say you are already short of personnel. If we give to the Office of Education the authority also for a collecting of statistics on manpower needs, isn't there a chance that you will be still shorter of personnel if you divide it up into three departments and agencies?

Mr. ROSS. I am sure that you are studying the functions of these other agencies and of our agency and I think the committee would be in the best position to decide what the most appropriate division of labor is.

Mrs. GREEN. Did you come from the State Department to the Department of Labor? [Laughter.]

Mr. ROSS. No.

Mr. GIBBONS. Let me ask you, if we pass section 503A as it is now written, will the Department of Labor give up the function that you have been performing apparently pretty adequately, or will you just phase it out and save that much money?

Mr. ROSS. No, I don't believe so, because we certainly have the responsibility to cover the teaching profession along with hundreds of other occupations and professions in our general occupational outlook work, manpower forecasting, and preparation of materials for counseling.

Mr. GIBBONS. It is a small item in a \$130 billion budget, but I just was wondering where we were going in this thing. I guess we are going to have to combine you two somewhere.