

All in all, programs in the Higher Education Facilities Act and the Higher Education Act involving a total authorization of \$1.449 billion would, under the present request, be cut to \$712 million or less than 50 percent of the present authorization.

We realize that restoring these appropriations to the maximum authorization is beyond the power of this committee, but the AFL-CIO strongly recommends that this committee exert every possible influence to encourage the House Appropriations Committee to provide Federal funding to the full authorization permitted.

We turn now to the specific amendments included in H.R. 6232 and H.R. 6265.

Essentially, these bills extend the provisions of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and the National Defense Education Act. We particularly welcome the extension of the National Defense Education Act a year before it expires. By doing this Congress reduces the uncertainties which do violence to long range educational planning.

The National Defense Education Act has immeasurably strengthened American education from the earliest years through graduate school.

The Higher Education Act has opened the gate to higher education for hundreds of thousands of young people who might otherwise have found those gates closed. Both of these measures deserve to be a permanent part of a Federal program for education.

In short we support the extension of all programs covered in H.R. 6232 and H.R. 6265, and we further support the funding of these programs at maximum authorization.

We particularly welcome the extension of the student aid programs which were established by the National Defense Education Act and by the Higher Education Act. The national defense student loan program has aided many thousands of young people in their efforts to obtain higher education.

The forgiveness feature has had the added benefit of encouraging many young people who might not otherwise have done so to enter the teaching profession.

We welcome the provision in the present bills to extend this forgiveness feature to certain teachers other than those entering public school systems. The AFL-CIO has long supported the extension of the forgiveness feature to all those who become teachers in non-public, nonprofit schools. We would therefore urge an even more liberal broadening of the forgiveness feature than is included in the present bills.

We welcome too the extension of the student loan insurance program begun under the Higher Education Act. We supported this program when it was before Congress because it seemed to us an excellent way to make a small Federal expenditure go a long way in facilitating student aid.

This program has not worked as effectively as we had hoped that it would, in part because of the tightening of the money market. We have had reports from many parts of the country that large numbers of banks will not make loans on the ground that they can't make profit from it.

Although we agree that the program should at least be extended, we hope that this committee will reexamine the program, particularly