

"to provide a Federal program of student loan insurance for students or *eligible lenders* who do not have reasonable access to a state or private non-profit program of student loan insurance . . ."

The above underlined language merely *adds* two words to the section. We offer this as a suggestion only. Of course, wherever appropriate changes are needed to put into effect this proposed change we would welcome it.

I hope that our efforts in regard to this matter will be useful to the Committee.

Sincerely yours,

WALTER G. DAVIS,
Director, Department of Education.

Mrs. GREEN. How would you liberalize the forgiveness feature?

Mr. SESSIONS. We have taken the position that we would like to see the forgiveness feature extended generally to people who go into teaching in nonpublic schools.

Mrs. GREEN. The forgiveness feature goes to all teachers in public or private schools or from kindergarten through college?

Mr. SESSIONS. Yes.

Mrs. GREEN. Beyond that, is there some other extension?

Mr. SESSIONS. I think that is about as far as we have suggested.

Mr. DAVIS. That is now in effect. That is an error in our testimony.

Mrs. GREEN. I just wondered if there was some other thing you were suggesting.

Mr. SESSIONS. We have on occasion raised the question of whether this might be extended to librarians, for instance, who have somewhat similar problems to teachers, as the profession requires that they have college training and the earnings are not commensurate with the general level of earnings as many other professional college graduates.

Mrs. GREEN. Do you mean librarians in schools?

Mr. SESSIONS. Public librarians.

Mrs. GREEN. You say that the forgiveness feature has had the added benefit of encouraging many young people who might not have otherwise have done so to enter the teaching profession. Have you any evidence to support this?

Mr. SESSIONS. I think we could provide it. I don't have it on hand.

Mrs. GREEN. The Office of Education sent us a memorandum last year in which it said there was absolutely no indication that their forgiveness feature had attracted anybody into the teaching profession who would not otherwise have gone in.

I think both we and the Office of Education might be interested in any evidence you might have.

Mr. SESSIONS. I will see if I can do better than they.

Mrs. GREEN. On page 2 and also at the top of page 3, you talk about the amount, the small amount, of appropriations. In paragraph 1, you refer to the Congress. As a Member of Congress I am willing to take the blame where we are to blame. I must say I take exception to this.

It seems to me that you might direct your lobbying and your influence to the executive branch because it is the executive branch that is requesting only 50 percent and 52 percent of the funds. As a member of this committee I have protested this.

But the blame, if there be blame, seems to me to rest squarely there.

Mr. DAVIS. I think that was our intent.

Mrs. GREEN. Have you done anything in this matter or have you made any pleas or written any letters or done anything as far as influencing the executive branch to take another look at its requests for appropriations?