

longer range planning than is currently assured is not available to Federal and university administrators.

We, therefore, urge you to give the most sympathetic consideration to the administration's request for extension of the authorization through fiscal year 1972.

The member institutions of the National University Extension Association are aware that a major purpose of title I is to bring about community change as a part of the process of solving serious or persistent community problems.

Many of these problems are regional—Appalachia is a noteworthy example, or cut across State lines—as in the transportation problems of Metropolitan New York or Metropolitan Washington.

Administratively, it is far more efficient to attempt to organize solutions to these area problems with direct project funding from Washington, provided, of course, that some imaginative and ingenious State and local administrators have not worked out effective solutions on their own.

Under the existing statute solutions to regional problems through direct funding are not possible. The existing statute also inhibits innovative and experimental programs. It is likely that if research funds were available, we could readily demonstrate the truth of the proposition that the possibility of innovative, experimental programs being approved is in inverse ratio to the number of layers of bureaucracy and the size of the committees through which approval must be obtained.

The State agency system and its advisory committee are beneficial to the program in most respects but they have not produced the experimental projects this program deserves and needs.

Not every community needs highly innovative or experimental projects in any given year of course; but many do, especially where community problems have been most persistent.

Where community leaders and their local institutions of higher education are willing to undertake such projects, they should be allowed to do so with a minimum of screening except to insure that the purposes of the act will be achieved.

For these reasons, we believe that the administration has wisely requested authorization for allocation of up to 10 percent of appropriated funds to the Commissioner for grants or contracts with institutions of higher education to carry out innovative, experimental and regional projects. We hope the committee will also review this request sympathetically.

We have a word of caution regarding grants and contracts under this section (107) which we will refer to at the end of our comments on title V.

The amendment to title V is a piece of legislation the education profession has long awaited. It represents a bold, imaginative and sound response to the growing needs for recruitment into the profession and the continuing retraining of those who are careerists in education.

Those of us in the field of higher adult education are deeply aware of the need for lifelong learning no matter what one's profession is; and we recognize this need for ourselves as well as for others.