

Mr. HOWE. Madam Chairman, we have just made arrangement with the college entrance examination board to make an indepth study of this whole forgiveness feature, along with some other aspects of student loans.

Mr. MUIRHEAD. We except to have the results in December.

Mr. HOWE. We are concerned as you are, about the effects of that program over the long run, what the advantages and disadvantages are. Frankly, we don't have a comprehensive analysis of it at this point, but we will at that time.

Mrs. GREEN. I think it would be well for this committee to consider postponement of any action on this program until we have the results of your study.

Mr. HOWE. I certainly hope you will not take that position, for the simple reason we will have youngsters standing in line to get into college this fall.

Mrs. GREEN. Maybe we can reach a compromise. You people, if you want us to speed up, can also speed up in getting the report.

Mr. HOWE. That is a complex fact-gathering enterprise, as you are well aware, to analyze the experiences under the loan forgiveness, whether or not this is producing additional staffing in the schools, and so on. We have had lots of conversations about this. Now we think we have at least an authoritative look being made at it. We will do anything we can to speed it up.

Mrs. GREEN. Congressman Quie?

Mr. QUIE. Has the fact gathering been done yet, or have you just entered into the contract?

Mr. MUIRHEAD. The contract has been underway now for about 2 months. They expect to have the fact gathering completed in September, and to have the report written and submitted to us in December.

Mr. QUIE. Then, we should be able to get information on it before December, should we not?

Mr. MUIRHEAD. It seems to me that we could get some preliminary information before December. I think possibly you would be reluctant and we would be reluctant to make any decisions on that information until the report had been written.

Mr. QUIE. I made my decision a long time ago, so there won't be any problem for me. I am opposed to the continuation of the forgiveness feature, and have been for some time.

Mr. HOWE. We would like to have your analysis along with that of the college entrance board.

Mr. QUIE. I came to this conclusion from statements that you and your predecessor made before; namely, that you have not found any proof that the forgiveness feature brought any additional teachers into the profession. Also from the student aid officers of the college who have finally come to the conclusion that if it had been good it would have solved its problem by now and if it had not solved the problem, then it was not any good in the first place.

Mr. HOWE. My impression, supported by facts, is that the single largest influence on teachers going into the profession is salary levels in the profession, not these kinds of matters we are talking about.

Mr. QUIE. That is my feeling, too, and if this is in any way an excuse so that they don't have to increase salaries, then I think it would be unfortunate that it ever was in existence.