tage of opportunities to achieve higher education because of the negative dowry that they carry with them in effect?

Mrs. MINK. I have heard no such observations in my State with reference to the availability of this program to women as well as men.

Mr. SCHEUER. I don't mean the availability.

Mrs. MINK. I mean, their acceptance of a program such as this. I think perhaps if we looked at our own figures we would find perhaps more women applying for these loans than men, but I would not assert that as a fact without looking at the applications themselves.

Mrs. GREEN. Would you yield?

Mr. SCHEUER. Of course.

Mrs. GREEN. I wonder if the Representative from Hawaii would agree that perhaps as much consideration ought to be given to the way a woman might look at the negative dowry of the prospective groom as a man might look in the way of a negative dowry?

Mrs. MINK. I join the chairman in that observation.

Mrs. GREEN. It seems to me to have a certain inference that there is only one way this thing goes.

Mrs. MINK. Rather than negative, Mr. Scheuer, it would seem to me that it would be an extremely affirmative, positive asset which a young woman could bring into a marriage, the fact that she has been able to secure a maximum education prior to getting married and raising a family. It would increase the potential of that family's future.

Mrs. GREEN. If you will yield further?

Mr. SCHEUER. Of course.

Mrs. GREEN. May I suggest that we women have always assumed that men were a great deal more interested in the brains and the intellect and the charm of the female of the species rather than the amount of money they have in their pockets, when looking for future partners.

Mr. SCHEUER. I am not stating what men's feelings are. I am just inquiring as to whether there may not be a fear on the part of a woman that if she is encumbered with a debt of several thousand dollars and then is faced with the prospect of getting married and then perhaps stopping work, that she might not feel in the event she does get married that it is a very wise investment and a constructive step in that future, to encumber a debt of several thousand dollars, when she is not necessarily looking forward to a lifetime career of work.

If this is not an impediment, I would like to hear about it. I will say, as a strong believer of equal rights, that the day may come when men may contemplate there is at least a 50–50 chance they will get married and retire and do the housework, and let the lady of the house go out to work.

Anyway, you have not heard of this as a problem. You have not heard of a woman being reluctant to encumber herself with a debt?

Mrs. MINK. Trying to put aside my own personal prejudices and biases for the moment, I must say I have had no such observations made to me in my State.

Mrs. SCHEUER. Do you have any personal prejudices and biases as between a loan program and grant program?

Mrs. MINK. I think if the choice were given me, if I were an applicant to go to college, I would of course seek every possible scholarship grant opportunity first, before committing myself on a loan. I think