

Mr. COHEN. That report represented an attempt to discuss with the Indians what these problems are and what might be done, and it lists on page 5 a series of meetings held in 1966 in Denver with the Indian leaders about their concern, and I will read you just a part about it.

Indian representatives stressed concern about the transfer of education from the Bureau of Indian Affairs to the Office of Education. Fearful of 'termination' of federal activities in their behalf, they are generally opposed to the disruption of the traditional relationship which has existed with the Governors' offices and should consider the readiness of local or State systems to provide quality educational services. They recommended further that local studies be undertaken, with the assistance of Indian groups, non-Indian groups, and State and Federal officials; and that Governors of the States involved should call attention to the need for improvement of the educational opportunities for Indians in public schools.

The consensus of both meetings was that the Bureau of Indian Affairs should be given time to carry out its new educational program before serious consideration is given to transfer of the education function from one agency to another.

INTERIOR AND HEW MEET WITH INDIANS

Senator RIBICOFF. What are you doing now?

Have you stopped the dialog between the Indians and Interior and yourself?

Mr. COHEN. No, the dialog has continued during this period of time. Our Deputy Assistant Secretary, Mr. Colmen, who is responsible for continuing this dialog, has been meeting with the groups. In fact, he is not here today, because he is out in the West continuing those meetings.

But I must say that, from what I know as of now, there has not been any singular change in the attitude of the Indian leaders with regard to this question.

INDIANS HAVE BEEN NEGLECTED

to pursue these efforts, because I know what was achieved in the field of health when the transfer was made, and my thinking is that this could be achieved in education, too, if the transfer was made to the Department of Education.

I think, with patience in explanation and communication, this could be pointed out and plans made to show how changes would be made