

very heavily weighted in favor of those who come from middle- and upper-income brackets, as compared with those who come from lower-income brackets.

That fact, and we can document that with a good many numbers, would indicate that there is a real problem of financial support for those from lower-income brackets in getting the opportunity to go to college. If you refine that fact further and look at those from lower, income brackets who have the ability to go to college, it is still true that the percentage of those with the ability—that is, from the upper quarter of graduating classes but coming from lower-income brackets—find themselves in college in substantially lower proportion than they should in accordance with their ability, again probably because primarily financial need.

There are motivational factors in here as well that complicate the picture.

Third, you have a clear record of college dropouts which again is weighted very much in the direction of those who come from lower income families. You can't ascribe all of these college dropouts to financial need, but you can ascribe a considerable proportion of them to financial need. I would say in a general way we have a very large problem to solve here. We are not going to solve it completely by the legislation and the funding we are suggesting to be put in being this year, but the legislation will put into place the proper authorizations to reach for a solution to this problem over a 5-year period. We could submit to you some numbers which would show the kinds of options that would have to be faced in funding over that 5-year period to solve the problems of, let's say, students from families of less than \$5,000 adjusted gross income, or \$6,000 or \$7,000, whichever level it is.

Mr. REID. Let me ask just two quick statistical questions:

What is the total number of our graduating high school seniors in the United States at this time?

Mr. HOWE. 2.7 million.

Mr. REID. 2.7, and what is it, around 50 percent that are now going on?

Mr. HOWE. Around 50 percent are going on to some form of post-high school education.

Mr. REID. And this would provide how much of an increase over last year? You used a figure of about 700,000 in the guaranteed student loan program and mentioned NDEA figures.

Mr. HOWE. Those figures, of course, reflect the students in all 4 years of college.

Mr. REID. Well, how many did we help go to college in this current fiscal year or the last year?

Mr. HOWE. You mean new starts in September?

Mr. REID. Yes; that would not have otherwise been able to do it? What is the annualized figure approximately?

Mr. MUIRHEAD. If we talk about the opportunity grant program—

Mr. REID. No, I am thinking about overall, all of these programs.

Mr. MUIRHEAD. Well, in the present year, about one and a quarter million students are being assisted through the several student aid programs.

Mr. REID. Do you divide it by four?