Perhaps Mr. Weiss could comment. I believe you were involved in the comments on that study in the Treasury.

Mr. WEISS. We were. The best figures we could get indicated that lenders relatively were losing money on these loans. I believe the committee has received a review of that study from the Comptroller General which indicates, if I understand correctly, that it is at least in the right ball park, although this is a matter of making findings on relatively limited data.

The other point I might mention, Mr. Hathaway, is that we have also heard from quite a number of lenders that they are willing to make some of these loans, even if they are a loss operation, as a matter of public service or community relations. But they do indicate that if they are doing it on that basis it is in effect an item in their advertising budget and they are not willing to put much money into it. If we want to see the program expand to the extent that the Office of Education has projected it needs to expand, then we would assume we have to put it on the basis of at least a break-even or reasonable return for the lenders.

Mr. HATHAWAY. Isn't it true, though, that the number of institutions participating in the program, is still increasing since the program was originally conceived?

Mr. WEISS. Yes.

Mr. HATHAWAY. Why shouldn't we wait until it becomes a matter of fact that institutions are not participating in the program rather than what they say is going to happen before we give extra money? They may say, "I don't think we can keep it up much longer," but as a matter of fact they do keep it up much longer. We are going to give them money just for what they say they may do.

Mr. HOWE. If we waited, we would be accused of bad planning.

Mrs. GREEN. Off the record.

(Discussion off the record.)

Mr. HATHAWAY. I don't think we could be accused of asking for improper planning, because if we see that the institutions are falling off, actually falling off, not just saying they are not going to participate, I don't think it would be much of a problem to get a placement fee through Congress for this and in time to save the program. What do you think of that?

Mr. HOWE. Judging by our current efforts to get something through Congress, it might be difficult.

Mr. HATHAWAY. Just on this one item.

Mr. GIBBONS. I think you are right.

Mrs. GREEN. Is that all?

Mr. HATHAWAY. That is all. Thank you.

Mrs. GREEN. I didn't use my 10 minutes, so I will exercise a chairman's prerogative before I yield to you, Mr. Scheuer.

I wanted to go back to cost of students' loans with the Commissioner or representatives from the Treasury.

I will refer to a letter which I have from the Under Secretary of the Treasury dated October 30, 1967. I had asked for a comparison of the costs of student loans under the NDEA and under the guaranteed student loan program. Do you have copies of that available to you there?