I think there is a problem in handing that matter over to the banks. We would certainly want to explore the additional administrative load this would place on the institutions and the problems of adjustment they would have, were such a system to be introduced.

But I must agree there are more accurate systems for measuring relative need than the one now embraced in this legislation. The question is whether, with the complexities of the administration of this legislation, it is desirable to introduce the concept of relative need.

Mr. Reid. I can merely add—and this is all, Madam Chairman; I thank you for the time—I would merely add the expression and hope that we could make this program available to all students in the middle-income families.

Mr. Barr. May I add there is a precedent in an area which I am more qualified to speak: In the tax law there we do, of course, give additional relief as the family size increases—and this is one area of relief that now is incorporated in this loan program. If you wanted to go further, you could provide that if you had more than one child in school at a time there is more need for purposes of this program, and you can move in that direction.

Mr. Reid. That is the kind of thought I had.

Mr. Howe. I want to clarify one point I am sure you are aware of. The program is generally available above the $15,000 level, but the forgiveness features don't continue for the people above that level.

Mr. Reid. I am also aware in New York and some other States the $20,000 figure has not been worked out and there are a number in New York that were denied loans despite this program and that is why I have doubts about an arbitrary figure and would feel with a little commonsense the question of need on a broader basis could be the criterion that would make more sense.

Mr. Carey. Will my colleague from New York yield? I would not like the record to rest insofar as the prototype program for the country, as far as the New York Higher Education Assistance Corporation is concerned, I don't believe there is any set criteria in terms of dollar figure as to whether the student will obtain a loan.

The student on application may submit or the parent may submit in support of the student's application any special circumstances of a financial nature which make the arbitrary figure one that is not controlling. If there has been any kind of special burden, financial burden in the family in a given year, the student can develop it and make it available to the Higher Education Assistance Corporation and the dollar figure goes out the window. It is the real assets to support the student in college that they make the decision on.

Mr. Reid. Just to support my colleague, I have a fair body of correspondence with the Commissioner and with the head of the Higher Education Assistance Corporation, and unfortunately New York has not worked out the full benefit program and it does exclude on the basis of certain dollar limitation, and I would be happy to show you you the correspondence and indeed negative correspondence saying why the board of regents cannot at this time take action.

Mr. Carey. If my colleague would yield further, I can give him information on the application of my son which has just been approved, and it was done on the basis of extraordinary expense as a result of having to contest my seat against a Republican.