

Mr. REID. I don't contest the gentleman's sophistication in these matters, but would be happy to show him the correspondence. My only point is, it should be on the basis of need and not arbitrary.

Mr. CAREY. The need is there, I assure you.

Mr. REID. I am sure the gentleman is in a position to know.

Mrs. GREEN. Mr. Secretary, did I understand you to say in considering the budget, this is a lower item?

Mr. BARR. Madam Chairman, as you look at the priorities that exist in the United States, first of all, I think you must recognize that we have limited dollars, and we have to put the highest priority on the people that obviously are not going to get an education under any circumstances without assistance. So I would say the highest priority would be making sure that the child out of the ghetto or some place else who had no chance without assistance would be the highest priority.

Mrs. GREEN. I was referring to your statement in terms of the money available for education and of having to go to the guaranteed student loan because of the current national budget picture.

Mr. BARR. I am sorry. What I meant was that this particular program designed for middle- and lower-middle-income people would have to take a lower priority than the programs designed for the child who has no chance—where it is not a question of the family sacrificing, but no chance at all without assistance.

No, indeed, I don't make any such assertion. I did, on the contrary, try to point out in the past 5 years the budget would indicate that the real explosion in our spending in percentage terms has been in the areas of education, health, and welfare.

I also venture to predict, Madam Chairman, in the next decade this trend will not level off; it will not slow down. If anything, I would bet that this trend for a larger and larger proportion of our budget dedicated to these three areas would continue and increase.

Mrs. GREEN. As I look at the budget, that has not been my impression when I review the space program expenditures, highway construction or defense.

Mr. BARR. Madam Chairman, I don't intend to argue about the budget today, but I would say that highway construction has been almost level for the past 4 or 5 years, running at the rate of \$3½ to \$4 billion a year. The space program has leveled off for the past 3 years to around \$4 to \$5 billion. Defense has gone up, because of the Vietnam cost, roughly 50 percent.

I think if you look at the budget and include all the funds that we have under the new unified budget, I think you will see that the real surge, percentage-wise in the budget, is in these three areas, and I think it appropriate and I applaud it.

I am speaking not in absolute terms but in percentage terms. We started from a low base; for instance, in elementary and secondary education, it was zero.

Mrs. GREEN. You can increase it 500 percent and not have very much?

Mr. BARR. That is right, when you start with zero or a very low level. But all these areas, in percent terms, have gone up quite rapidly, and I predict this will continue. I would hope so.