Planning and operation of electronic computer networks: Sharing of a single centralized computer by a number of institutions can cut the costs to any single institution significantly, while still providing sufficient computer time for processing of financial or student records, student course work, or transmission of library or other materials, or providing a resource for faculty research.

The scope of the computer's use, as part of an educational network, would be limited only by the imagination of the group of institutions proposing the project.

Exchange of faculty on a part-time of full-time basis: Less wealthy institutions may not be able to afford—or use—the full-time services of a distinguished professor. Again, sharing would enable more schools and more students to benefit from a single faculty member's knowledge.

For fiscal year 1969, it is requested that $8 million be authorized to be appropriated for resource-sharing programs, with such sums as might be necessary for the next 4 fiscal years. Funds are not to be spent for providing capital equipment, library resources, or other assets to a single institution. These are intended, instead, to pay the costs of transmission or other changes incident to establishing a network.

Madam Chairman, I might observe that this proposal probably had its origin in a walk I took with Secretary Gardner on the Mall one day. We were discussing the affairs of higher education. He observed that there were a great many networks developing among institutions of higher education across the country but that they always seemed to neglect the professor in his classroom; that he seemed to be very much alone while there were networks for such matters as admissions problems, for such matters as student aid, for all the administrative affairs of the institution. He raised the question of whether it would not be possible to do something to get higher education institutions to think about sharing their strengths and particularly their instructional and research and academic strength in new ways, and perhaps to make the teacher in the classroom a less lonely figure, a person who was fortified by resources from outside his own institution. That walk took place 2 years ago.

Now we are coming up with an idea. I think there are clear evidences already of institutions' having moved in this direction on their own in very effective ways. There is nothing original about this. But this seems to us an important development to encourage; particularly for certain specialized resources and particularly with the possibility of modern communications technique, it seems to us that this kind of encouragement might result in improvements in efficiency and improvement in quality of higher education. That is why we bring this proposal before you.

Mrs. GREEN. Under title I of the Facilities Act, can grants be made to a group of colleges working together on a cooperative basis?

Mr. MUIRHEAD. Under title I of the Facilities Act, I suppose this could be possible if, first of all, the project met the priority standards of the State commission and did result in the construction of facilities to meet enrollment increases.

Mrs. GREEN. Have you ever given such a grant?

Mr. MUIRHEAD. We have not.