

Mr. QUIE. You think the Federal Government ought to be setting up all these networks and programs?

Mr. HOWE. No; we will not be setting them up. The proposals will be made to us because the institutions get together.

Mr. QUIE. You want the Federal Government to fund this? I think there is such a myriad of Federal programs that the fabric is going to be pretty big after a while. I understand that the institutions need money and the Federal Government is the source of the money. I have proven through the years that I strongly support that idea. But it rather appalls me to have a network for knowledge, NFK, just on top of everything else we have.

It seems to me we should move to an institutional grant and let the institution make decisions because they must have been walking on the Mall and coming up with ideas, too.

Mr. HOWE. Let me say I agree with you that we need to find the way to provide institutional grants for general support of institutions of higher education. You will find in the President's message a directive to the Secretary of HEW to do exactly that, in recognition that there is a need for this.

This is a very complex problem of finding the kind of formula or funding arrangement which will pay attention to the very diverse spectrum of higher education in the United States.

Mr. QUIE. You are saying that there are private institutions and that others are public.

Mr. HOWE. Not only that. There are private institutions that cut across the full range of activity from the University of Chicago to a struggling Negro college in Florida.

We must seek the kind of institutional grant arrangement that will be fair and reasonable to both those extremes of the private spectrum. You will find the same kind of problem on the public side.

As you begin to explore this issue of what people call general aid to higher education, as I have been exploring it this past year very vigorously, you rapidly find that to reach the formulation which is acceptable to the higher education community is not simple.

Mr. QUIE. We have many of these little programs and you still have the same problem of reaching all these institutions but they are so caught in the confusion of what all these programs are that they never get to the point of battling with each other to decide who is to receive so much money from general aid.

Mr. HOWE. I understand they find out very rapidly what the programs are and apply for them very vigorously and make use of them very well.

Mr. QUIE. I am thinking of the personnel to go through the catalog of programs.

Mr. HOWE. It takes some energy; there is no question about that.

Mr. QUIE. You need a catalog of a catalog.

Mr. ERLBORN. I make an observation we are getting into a greater area of grantsmanship, a subject that has bothered our subcommittee.

Another thing that bothers me about this proposal, I think I detect a proposal for a new network of regional laboratories for higher education. Isn't that so?