

Mr. Mahon echoed these sentiments during the last session of Congress, in explaining the need for a resolution to authorize continuing funds until the remaining appropriation bills are enacted when he said that:

"* * * The Committee on Appropriations generally is ready to present these bills but since we are lacking authorizations, * * * we are not in a position, under the rules, to present the bills to the House.

"* * * There will probably be, as always, a closing supplemental bill. We cannot say when it will come to the floor, but it will consist vary largely of items deferred from earlier appropriation bills for lack of legislative authorization at the time those bills were reported."

With the increasing flow of Federal money, the number of Federal educational support programs has grown and with this growth the number of cases of late extension and authorization have also increased. Both the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and the Higher Education Facilities Act illustrate the time lags that occur. In the case of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the original Act authorized appropriations only for fiscal year 1966. Approved in April 1965, supplemental funds were not appropriated until late September of that year, and allocations were not made by the Office of Education until one month later—half a year after most school budgets were completed. Extension of the Act the following year was not completed until November, more than four months after the original expiration date. Funds become available to local school districts in mid-November, again more than 6 months after the completion of typical school budgets.

In the case of the Higher Education Facilities Act, the original 1963 Act authorized appropriations for fiscal years 1964, 1965, and 1966. Because the Act was passed so late in the year, no funds were appropriated until fiscal year 1965. Almost \$64 million of the first year's appropriation lapsed. Though the Act expired at the end of June 1966, it was not extended until November 1966. Funds appropriated for fiscal year 1967 were not available until November 1966.

Unless affirmative action is taken to preclude its recurrence, the same circumstance will occur in the case of the Higher Education Act. This law was enacted in November 1965, and supplemental funds for most programs authorized under the Act were not available until that month, well into the school year. One title of the Act (Title III) was authorized for only one fiscal year; it expired at the end of June 1966, and was not extended until November 1966. Virtually the entire Act is scheduled to expire this June.

\$738 million has been included in the 1969 President's Budget for the Office of Education for amounts associated with programs which expire at the end of June 1968:

Higher Education Act.....	\$403, 000, 000
National Defense Education Act.....	335, 000, 000
Total	738, 000, 000

With authorizations still uncertain for FY 1969, there is currently some doubt whether the appropriations subcommittees will hear the administration's budget request for expiring programs. If "automatic extension" legislation had been in effect, there would be no question about the appropriations committees reviewing OE budgets in the normal course, rather than possibly in supplemental requests.

The heavy workload of Congressional legislative and appropriation committees makes it questionable whether legislative authorization and appropriations can be speeded up to any appreciable extent. Nor would it be desirable to attempt to curtail or inhibit the thoughtful process of evaluation attendant to extensions of authorization for expiring programs. The best solution, we believe, is to provide for orderly program development and continuity while allowing the authorization and appropriation process to proceed at its normal pace through the provision of the Higher Education Amendments of 1968 which call for an automatic extension for one year. Under this provision, all expiring provisions would be extended for one year at the same authorization level if the Congress did not complete action on the programs. This automatic extension provides a bridge between expiring legislation and extension legislation and enables the programs to function smoothly until Congressional action on extension is completed. It also enables the Appropriations Committees to provide funds in a timely fashion, rather than in the Supplemental request process, knowing that its appropriations will be required for authorized programs.