

We are here this morning to testify in support of H.R. 15067, a bill cited as the "Higher Education Amendments of 1968." We do so, however, with mixed emotions.

While we support the general provisions of the bill, we regret that it does not contain the higher education expansion that is so necessary. Throughout our Nation, today, irresistible forces are producing social, moral, economic, and political changes which almost defy human comprehension.

In the absence of readymade answers as to how to cope with these forces, education is most frequently espoused as the solution.

Accordingly, education assumes a new sense of urgency, and with this, the need for a new basis for evaluation. In this context, the proposed legislation fails to meet the emergency.

Now, we support the combination of the Higher Education Amendments of 1968 and 1967, to renew the higher education grants of 1965, renew NDEA grants of 1958, and now the Higher Education Facilities Act of 1963 plus new programs, educational opportunities, new ideas, including graduate schools, assistance for advancement in colleges, and help for disadvantaged.

We support all these. The Upward Bound program which brought many youngsters to our colleges now needs to be supplemented with funds to keep them there.

These are all excellent. Networks for knowledge, we are all pleased with these programs, we support them, but we believe that the proposals again are too late, insufficient, and too far in the future.

(Mr. Megel's prepared statement follows:)

STATEMENT OF CARL J. MEGEL, DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATION, AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS, AFL-CIO

Madam Chairman and Members of the Committee, my name is Carl J. Megel. I am the Director of Legislation of the American Federation of Teachers, a national, professional union of more than 150,000 classroom teachers affiliated with the AFL-CIO.

Our organization embraces more than 760 teacher locals, 82 of which are college, university, and junior college locals. Appearing with me this morning is Dr. Israel Kugler, President of the United Federation of College Teachers, New York, Local 1460 of the American Federation of Teachers, to supplement my remarks.

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While we support the general provisions of the bill, we regret that it does not contain the higher education expansion that is so necessary. Throughout our nation, today, irresistible forces are producing social, moral, economic, and political changes which almost defy human comprehension. In the absence of ready-made answers as to how to cope with these forces, education is most frequently espoused as the solution. Accordingly, education assumes a new sense of urgency and with this the need for a new basis for evaluation. In this context, the proposed legislation fails to meet the emergency.

It calls for re-enactment and extension of existing higher education aid programs which are due to expire in the near future. The Educational Opportunities Act of 1968 calls for a consolidation of existing student loan, scholarship grant, and work-study-aid programs designed to help college students pay for the cost of their education.

In this connection, the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders in the education section of its report recommended:

1. Re-orientation of vocational education, emphasizing work experience, training and the involvement of business and industry; and
2. Expansion of opportunities for higher education through increased Federal assistance to disadvantaged students.