

tional institutions charged with the responsibility of training the Nation's health professions personnel.

Let me summarize by saying H.R. 15067 is extending and enriching a program of Federal assistance that has been more successful in its operation than any of us in the business of education had ever even hoped for.

It has been well conceived and it has been well executed. We look forward to an even more significant experience in the next 5 years.

Thank you, sir.

Chairman PERKINS. Dr. Strickler, let me first compliment you on an outstanding statement. I think you have pointed up the great need for the legislation.

Now the bill proposes amendments to improve and strengthen the programs which you have so ably stated to provide support for students, for the construction of academic facilities and certain types of other programs and other services.

Now is the overall Federal involvement in higher education a well-balanced one or are there needs at your institution which are not being met by existing programs and programs to be established under this legislation?

Mr. STRICKLER. I think the programs are in a well-balanced order. I think I would emphasize that which all people in the business of education emphasize. That is the need for broad support of undesignated character in terms of purpose.

In other words, the problem facing my kind of institution, and it faces all others I think, is the business of meeting the day-to-day operating cost requirements.

For example, so frequently I think we provide aid for the student that is in terms of fellowship aid, scholarship aid, loans, and the like.

As I mention here almost every time a new student comes into the institution our problems become more severe.

Chairman PERKINS. On that particular point I know it has been mentioned over and over again before this subcommittee and suggestions have been made by various witnesses, first, the loan forgiveness feature of the NDEA student loan program be deleted and that the interest subsidy during the repayment period of the guaranteed student loan be deleted.

May I have your comments on these proposals?

Mr. STRICKLER. Yes, sir. I don't believe I would stress the need for deleting it. I might stress the need for modifying the period of time.

Chairman PERKINS. In what respect, would you say?

Mr. STRICKLER. I think at the present time the exemption runs for a period of 11 years. This is a fairly substantial period of time. In this day when a well-trained person has a chance to get generally a job of fair income, I doubt whether you would need this length of time. I would suggest 5 years.

Chairman PERKINS. Assuming that the interest subsidy were deleted, would it affect the student body at your institution?

Mr. STRICKLER. I don't believe so.

Chairman PERKINS. I have one further question. I know that one of the great objections that we have had over the period of years in enactment of legislation is the problem of late funding. This