In order to satisfy the matching provisions of NDEA title II, the nonpublic schools would be required to prove that they had spent an equal amount themselves for laboratory equipment or the kind of remodeling authorized under the act.

As you will recall, I made an extensive statement on this same subject during the subcommittee consideration of various education act amendments last year. My testimony can be found on page 390 of part I in the printed hearings.

For that reason, it is not my intention to make a detailed presentation on this occasion. The arguments and statistics advanced last year are still valid and pertinent.

I simply want to point out to the subcommittee that developments over the past year have made an even more compelling case for amending the National Defense Education Act along the lines suggested by H.R. 8203.

Considerable support for such an amendment was generated during congressional consideration of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1967. Several proposals were made, one of them to me, to amend ESEA to provide laboratory and other mobile equipment to students in nonpublic schools.

Because of the circumstances which prevailed at that time, however, I did not press that amendment on the undertsanding that both the leadership in the Education and Labor Committee and the administration would give full consideration to an amendment to title III of NDEA.

I am, therefore, hopeful that this subcommittee will give such an amendment the hearing it richly deserves. If this program is extended for 5 more years, as has been proposed, an attempt must be made to end the discrimination against nonpublic school children.

Statistics for fiscal 1967 which I have just received show that the situation has worsened.

As I have pointed out before, about 7 million American boys and girls attend nonpublic elementary and secondary schools. That is about 14 percent of the total national school population.

Up to and including fiscal 1966 that 14 percent of American youngsters has received little more than 1 percent of the funds which the Federal Government has expended under title III of NDEA. And even that amount must be paid back—with interest.

In fiscal 1967, a total of $79,200,000 was appropriated under title III of NDEA for grants to public schools. All of its was obligated. No amount lapsed.

In contrast, $1,500,000 was appropriated for title III loans to nonpublic schools. Of that amount only $465,422 was obligated and $1,043,578 lapsed. This indicates once again the failure of the present loan program to adequately and equitably meet the equipment needs of these American children.

Madame Chairman, I know that you and your fellow subcommittee members fully recognize the failure of the nonpublic school equipment loan program under NDEA.

You are aware that it has defeated its very purpose by placing nonpublic school children in a relatively weaker position with respect to defense-related subjects than they were in 1958, when the National Defense Education Act was enacted.

Those 7 million children are no less important to the future defense and security needs of our Nation than those who attend public schools.

The Congress must quickly indicate its recognition of that truth by amending title III of NDEA to end the present discriminatory system and to bring equitable benefits to all school children.

In order to provide members of the subcommittee with a ready reference, I ask permission to append to the end of this statement the text of my bill, H.R. 8203.

Thank you.

[H.R. 8203, 90th Cong., first sess.]

A BILL To amend the National Defense Education Act of 1958 to make equipment purchased under title III thereof available to all children attending public and private nonprofit elementary and secondary schools.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That (a) section 303(a)(1) of the National Defense Education Act of 1958 is amended (1) by striking out "public" after "or reading in", (2) by inserting "public" after "of local", and (3) by inserting