



Sec. Folsom said it was contemplated that the Administration would not press its school construction assistance program even though the need for more school rooms continued, since science and related educational needs must take priority.

Dr. Killian believed this a very good program, especially since it was not confined merely to science. He pointed to the particular need for helping small colleges and graduate schools. He noted the existing program of the National Science Foundation with which there would have to be close coordination.

The President inquired as to the desirability of so broad a program which might not remedy the lag in science and mathematics. He was opposed to the 75 - 25 basis for matching grants, and Sec. Folsom said that could be changed. The President wondered if sufficient attention had been given to encouraging indirectly higher pay for teachers, thus to remedy the need. Mr. Folsom believed that would not have sufficiently quick effect.

Sec. Benson expressed his concern with getting into new Federal programs and hoped alternative methods could be explored. Mr. Stassen thought it a good program since it left much room for help from private funds. Sec. Anderson was somewhat hesitant and thought that if the Federal Government did enter the field it ought to do so in a way leaving room for maximum effort and control by the States. Mr. Gray expressed some misgiving but felt it could be justified in terms of filling a particular need for a particular time only.

The President recalled Dr. Burns' suggestion for remunerated summer advancement opportunities for teachers. Mr. Folsom said he had heard from school people that this probably could not compete with high wages offered by industry. Mr. Brundage assumed the proposal would be reviewed as usual with Budget and the President commented that some of the figures would probably have to be reduced.

(The President left the meeting at this point.)

Secretaries Mitchell and Folsom discussed the need for justifying the absence of a school construction program. The Vice President thought the President had provided this justification in the Oklahoma City speech, when he said some activities would have to be increased at the cost of deferring others.

Sec. Dulles wished to observe, without unnecessarily criticizing, that any contest like this with the Russians always carried the danger of destroying what one really seeks to protect. Over-emphasis on science might cause neglect of other things which are fundamental to a free society. He was wary of warping the educational pattern for materialistic purposes of a government. Sec. Folsom responded in terms of remedying the recent drift away from science and mathematics and also of