

August 26, 1958

To: Glen L. Taggart, Dean, International Programs
From: Wesley R. Fishel, Professor
Subject: National Defense Education Act

Subsequent to our conversation concerning the national foreign language facility proposal which came out of our International Politics Seminar I spoke with Laszlo Borbas, Russ Nye and Milton Muelder (in that order) and secured enthusiastic approval from all three. Nye went so far as to offer to place at the disposal of whomever was charged with preparing a project proposal the services of three members of his Department. All agreed that prompt action was indicated.

Last week end the U. S. Senate and House agreed on a final version of the National Defense Education Act of 1958, and the approved bill has been sent to the White House. Reading newspaper accounts from around the country I found numerous indications of interest in this bill, and conversations with friends at other institutions lead me to conclude that they would be taking prompt action to involve their institutions in the activities authorized under the law.

Briefly, it provides (Title VI--Language and Area Centers) for the negotiation of contracts by the Commissioner of Education with "institutions of higher education" for the establishment and operation of centers for the teaching of modern foreign languages, and of instruction in other related fields, including history, political science, linguistics, economics, sociology, geography, and anthropology and including also travel grants to enable staff to visit relevant foreign areas and to defray the costs of foreign scholars coming to such centers.

The same Title provides for stipends to certain persons taking advanced training in modern languages. Similarly, this section of the law also authorizes the Commissioner to

. . . directly or by contract, to make studies and surveys to determine the need for increased or improved instruction in modern foreign languages and other fields needed to provide a full understanding of the areas, regions, or countries in which such languages are commonly used, to conduct research on more effective methods of teaching such languages and in such other fields, and to develop specialized materials for use in such training, or in training teachers of such languages or in such fields.

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Eight million dollars are authorized to be appropriated for such activities for each of the four fiscal years beginning last July 1.

Part B of Title VI authorizes the appropriation of \$7,250,000 annually beginning July 1, 1958, for contracts with universities to operate such language institutes, including the training of foreign language teachers, etc.

Also of interest is Title IV (National Defense Fellowships) which authorizes appropriations of over 50 million for the four year period covered by the law, and from 1000 to 1500 graduate fellowships per year to persons studying in certain approved types of graduate programs (relevant to the purpose of this bill)

In discussing this law and its implications with Horace King and Marge Jackson I found agreement that its provisions should be brought as quickly as possible to Tom Hamilton's attention, but with Hamilton and other members of the administrative group absent President Hannah was the logical person to be informed. But since you were not here and would not be back for another week it was suggested that I should bear the tidings.

I did so this morning. Mr. Hannah asked whether you could be reached by phone, since he felt that you had probably already "laid the ground wires" in Washington and should carry through now to see that MSU secured whatever benefits might be available. He himself favors our involvement, provided it does not mean asking the State Legislature for money!

Since I leave tomorrow morning for Los Angeles and you will not return until after Labor Day, I am committing this to a memo for your information. I am sure that Horace and Marge can fill you in on any other details, and there is a machine copy of the Act at your office. I shall be happy to help in any way possible after I return to Lansing with Dr. Thong on September 6.

WRF:jb