

NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS

600 SOUTH MICHIGAN BOULEVARD

CHICAGO ILLINOIS

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

January 9, 1941

To: State Presidents
State Chairmen of Legislation

Owing to misinformation which has been circulated among our states, Mrs. Kletzer has asked me to write you regarding a bill which was introduced in the last U.S. Congress under the title of the Schwert bill H.R. 10606, and which has just been reintroduced in this Congress. The material sent out on this bill by the American Association of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation states that the Congress of Parents and Teachers, national, state, and local, has endorsed this bill. The National Congress has not endorsed this bill and, in its present form, is not likely to endorse it. Mrs. Kletzer asked me to remind you that this bill affects several of our committees, and under our procedures each of these committees would need to be satisfied with the provisions of the bill as it affects their work. We have not had, to date, such endorsement by these committees.

This bill also cuts across activities which we have built up with cooperating agencies in the fields of health, education, recreation, and safety. These agencies were not consulted when the bill was drafted. Notwithstanding the claims of its proponents that there is no Federal control, the bill tends toward Federal control in almost every section. May we further invite attention to the fact that if the maximum amounts were reached under Parts 1 and 2 of the bill, the total for both would be \$200,000,000 annually, or two-thirds of the total amount authorized annually in the old Harrison-Fletcher bill for all areas of education. This, it would seem, might lessen the possibility of ever obtaining equitable appropriations for other equally important phases of education.

An organization such as ours, having no special interest to promote, is in an excellent position to evaluate a program in its relationship to the whole educational and community health picture. For a lasting and effective program in health and recreation, it is necessary to keep a very long view. In this way we shall be able to follow through on the statement accepted by the National Congress this fall, in which it pledged itself to "hew to the line" in the work being done in behalf of children during the emergency.