

assistance from staff people and consultants. Therefore, the basic staff of the Maryland Advisory Council for Higher Education is being expanded in order to provide the necessary assistance, and we also anticipate that we will be using outside consultants on some of the special projects.

Not all states have chosen, as we have in Maryland to establish a coordinating agency which has only advisory authority. In some SREB states, such as Georgia and Florida, the coordination of the state-supported institutions is handled by a board which also is the governing board for all of the institutions. In Arkansas the state agency is responsible only for the coordination of financial matters, although this obviously means that they must be well-informed about all aspects of higher education in the state. In Texas the state agency is responsible for reviewing the new programs which individual institutions desire to undertake and for approving or disapproving the establishment of these programs. In several states the agency also has the authority to abolish programs which are no longer needed in the state.

Judging from our experience in Maryland and also from the reports I hear about other states, one of the most crucial problems in the area of planning and coordination is securing qualified staff people for these state agencies. We were very lucky in Maryland in securing a fine staff director and we trust that he will be able eventually to secure equally competent people for the other staff positions, but he is having a very difficult time doing it. The rapid growth of these agencies has created a severe shortage of personnel. This is a problem which should be of concern to all of us in both state government and higher education.

The Southern Regional Education Board has made an important contribution to many states in the compact as they seek to develop effective state planning and coordinating agencies. We in Maryland have called upon both Dr. Drumbaugh and Dr. Miller on several occasions. I understand that SREB also has worked in various ways with agencies in other states including Virginia, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, Georgia and others. The board staff has also provided helpful assistance to legislative groups, state agencies and others in those states which were considering the establishment of a new state agency and needed advice concerning the way in which various arrangements have operated in other states.

Dr. Drumbaugh's extremely informative brochure on "State-wide