

The committee will stand in recess until 1:15 when we will return, and Mr. George Hecht of the American Parents Committee will lead off.

(Whereupon, at 11:45 a.m., the committee recessed until 1:15 p.m., the same day.)

AFTERNOON SESSION

Mr. PERKINS (presiding). The committee will come to order. A quorum is present.

We have as our next witness, George J. Hecht, chairman of the American Parents Committee, Inc., and publisher of Parents' magazine.

We are delighted to have you again with us, Mr. Hecht. You have appeared here on several occasions to urge the committee to enact a public elementary and secondary education bill which, to my way of thinking, would do a great deal to eliminate a substantial cause of poverty in the United States. You have done everything you could possibly do in that connection. In fact, you have championed the causes of education throughout your career to the credit of both you and the educational world. We are glad to see you here supporting this legislation.

Perhaps I should observe that we have a distinguished lady with us. You have mentioned her husband to me on several occasions. Mrs. Barry Bingham, who was a member of your action committee in trying to get the Congress to enact the Federal education bill for the elementary and secondary schools of the country.

I see you have a prepared statement. Do you prefer to insert the statement in the record or follow the statement along? Which do you prefer?

STATEMENT OF GEORGE J. HECHT, CHAIRMAN, AMERICAN PARENTS COMMITTEE, INC., AND PUBLISHER, PARENTS' MAGAZINE

Mr. HECHT. I leave that to you, Mr. Chairman. If you want me to read the statement, I will be glad to.

Mr. PERKINS. Make your own election. Proceed any way you wish.

Mr. HECHT. It is not a very long statement.

Mr. PERKINS. Go ahead.

Mr. HECHT. First, I want to thank you for this very complimentary introduction.

I am, as you said, publisher of Parents' magazine and chairman of the American Parents Committee, for which I am speaking today. The American Parents Committee, since it was founded in 1947, as a nonprofit, nonpartisan, public service organization, has worked exclusively for Federal legislation in behalf of children and youth. We have a board of directors and a national council of more than 100 outstanding leaders from across the Nation who serve as individuals. Their names appear on the first sheet of my statement. Through our national office in New York and our Washington staff we keep informed on legislative proposals affecting children, and actively endorse such legislation which is approved by a preponderant majority of our board of directors.