

We have with us here this morning a distinguished Member in the Congress, Congressman Jack Brooks.

It is a pleasure for me to recognize you, Mr. Brooks, to introduce the witness.

**STATEMENT OF HON. JACK BROOKS, A REPRESENTATIVE IN
CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF TEXAS**

Mr. BROOKS. Mr. Chairman, I want to say thank you to the committee for your gracious willingness to hear Dr. Vincent. Joe Vincent has been a lifelong friend of mine. He taught in public schools for 40 years and he taught in a 2-room school and now has been running, for the past 17 years, a system which has 14,000 students.

He served in World War I and in World War II. He has been a broadminded educator who was not unwilling to get into the political battles of mine and others. He has made a considerable contribution in that light. Also, during World War II, he worked specifically in rehabilitating semiliterates and illiterates and did some considerable work there. He has some background, I think, and he will make a contribution. I want to thank you for your willingness and courtesies in hearing him, and hope he will not impose too much on your time.

Thank you very much.

Mr. PERKINS. I want to say, in response to Mr. Brooks' statement, that I feel you did a good job in sending Mr. Brooks to Congress, because on all occasions he has worked for the general welfare of the people of Texas, and especially for all educational programs.

I am delighted to join with Mr. Brooks in welcoming you here. I notice you have a prepared statement. Do you wish to insert it in the record?

**STATEMENT OF JOSEPH J. VINCENT, SUPERINTENDENT OF
SCHOOLS, SOUTH PARK INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT, BEAU-
MONT, TEX.**

Mr. VINCENT. I will proceed in order—

Mr. PERKINS. Any way you prefer.

Mr. VINCENT. Instead of questions at the end, if any of the committee wish to ask questions they may do it when each matter comes up. I promise I will be out of here in 15 minutes.

Mr. PERKINS. Take your time; proceed.

Mr. VINCENT. First, I wish to thank this distinguished group for taking the time out for this. I want to thank my good friend, Congressman Jack Brooks, for making this meeting possible.

With the hopes that I can avoid being placed more or less in the category of a crackpot or someone handing in new ideas, and with the hopes that I can gain your attention and consideration of this thing, I am going to try to identify myself so that it will explain my attitude, if this is creative.

I was born in a homestead on the lowland swamps of Louisiana. There were no schools. We lived off the land. And, since I have viewed the very sections of the underprivileged and poor people in the Appalachian highland, I decided I must have been very poor, because those children there have much more now than I had. We lived