

Dr. Hopper, welcome to the subcommittee session this morning.

Are you fairly new in this position?

Dr. HOPPER. That is correct. Since July of 1966.

Mrs. GREEN. Fine.

Will you proceed as you wish?

Dr. HOPPER. Thank you.

**STATEMENT OF ROBERT L. HOPPER, DIRECTOR, SOUTHEASTERN
EDUCATION LABORATORY**

Madam Chairman, Members of the Congress, I am pleased to appear before this committee today as it proceeds with its significant review of the Office of Education.

It is certainly most thoughtful of the committee to provide a series of regional hearings to facilitate the appearance of interested citizens throughout our Nation.

Let me identify myself as the director of the Southeastern Education Laboratory with offices at 3450 International Boulevard, Hapeville, Ga.

Our laboratory is one of a network of 20 laboratories funded under provisions of title IV, Public Law 89-10. The primary purpose of the laboratories is to promote educational change and development, translating research findings into improved school practices.

We are, in fact, a new bridge which has been developed to make certain that our schools have the opportunity to accelerate their growth by taking advantage of technological developments in all fields of endeavor. Especially are we concerned that schools make use of curriculum innovations which have come into being primarily as a result of the leadership of our Federal Government.

It is not necessary for me to labor the point of the compelling need for educational advancement in our Nation's school system. We know of the dramatic progress which has been made with Federal funding in such segments of our society as health, defense, space exploration, science, public housing, and highway development.

All of us are equally sensitive to the fact that our educational system is not developing as fast as other areas of human endeavor. If our people are to perform effectively in modern society, nonetheless, it is imperative that they be provided new kinds of educational opportunities now.

Our regional education laboratory serves the States of Alabama, Georgia, and Florida. We have a 62-member regional council which represents the educational and civic interests of the three-State area.

The regional council elects a board of directors, consisting of 12 people. The board serves as the policymaking body of the laboratory. The board selects the director, and approves the appointment of three associate directors in the central office, as well as the appointments of eight component office directors.

Four of the laboratory's component offices are located in Florida, two in Alabama, and two in Georgia.

Each of the laboratories throughout the Nation has a primary program focus. Our focus in the Southeastern Laboratory is on the amelioration of educational deprivation.