

2. The whole congressional concept of punishing school children by withholding money from them because persons in local authority refuse to carry out specific social concepts or refuse to do any other act is contrary to the basic constitutional principle that the innocent shall not be penalized for the offenses of the guilty.

3. It destroys all confidence on the part of those who have thus far worked to meet the law with courage and sincerity because we find that we cannot trust the authorities who approved our original plan.

4. The HEW agency has arrogated to itself legislative authority beyond the powers delegated by Congress both by verbal contacts with this district and in its guidelines by publishing the guidelines as part of Federal regulations thereby imposing an unlawful tyranny over our schools destroying faith in representative government. We consider our elected Members of Congress our representatives. But are we being represented in this instance?

BOARD OF EDUCATION,
STUTTGART SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 22,
By L. M. STRATTON, *President*.

DECEMBER 5, 1966.

EDITH GREEN,
*Chairman, Special Subcommittee on Education, House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR MRS. GREEN: The Executive Board of the Virginia School Boards Association, at its session which was held on December 3, 1966, directed us to express to you its concern over the confused state of communications that exists between the local school boards in Virginia and the United States Office of Education. Particular concern has been expressed from all areas of the Commonwealth about the manner in which communications are received and the lack of definiteness as to what is expected in the operation of various programs.

The school boards are experiencing great difficulty in securing written communications from the U.S. Office of Education upon which to base their actions. It appears that the Office of Education relies too heavily upon the use of the telephone as a means of communication.

As you know, it is imperative that school boards plan the operation and administration of a school system well in advance of the initiation of any program, and that these programs must have continuity. Under the present methods of operation intelligent planning and continuity of programs are almost impossible.

Sincerely yours,

GEORGE W. HOLMES III,
*Executive Secretary by Direction of the Executive Board, Virginia School
Boards Association.*

Mrs. GREEN. We are delighted to have our colleague, Congressman Flynt, join us at the hearings this morning.

Our very cordial welcome to you. I hope you will feel free to participate.

I wonder if I might ask you to summarize your statements, not leaving out the important points, but to summarize them, and then the full statements will be made in each case a part of the record.

May we start out with Mr. Acree, the executive secretary of the Georgia School Boards Association.

STATEMENT OF JACK ACREE, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, GEORGIA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

Mr. ACREE. Madam Chairman and members of the committee, may I say that we appreciate this opportunity of appearing before you.

I would hasten to say that I have presented to you a brief which I hadn't intended in the first place to read to you. It is a brief that is