

rather comprehensive, for two or more reasons, the first reason being the very nature of our responsibility and of our contacts with the several school systems throughout the State.

Of course, the second important reason is that the very seriousness of our complaints suggested that we not only excerpt statements, possibly out of context, but that we provide you with information to which you could refer that would indeed give you the feeling that exists in our school systems.

Thus, this is more comprehensive than it would have been otherwise.

In my remarks I shall briefly refer to the contents of the brief.

We have attempted to do three things, simply, first, to state to you our position as a State school boards association.

We would respectfully call your attention to the fact that our position is one that is constructive and costly, so far as we are capable of making it. It is not intended to be evasive or negative in any sense of the word.

Secondly, I would assure you that our association has the highest regard for all of the intents of Congress with regard to assistance to education.

We feel that Federal assistance to education is essential, but we do feel this assistance must be so administered as not to encroach upon the control of our local school systems, our duly constituted agencies.

Then I would suggest that our position emphasizes and actually extends to you an appeal to preserve our very precious heritage, of local control of all governmental affairs, education in particular, in this instance.

We would likewise insist that we subscribe to the position that our schools exist for a singular purpose, for the education of our boys and girls.

And as worthy as the objectives of other programs designed and administered by other agencies, or even under agencies to which we refer, as worthy as those objectives may be, we do not feel that our schools should be used for the accomplishment of certain of those objectives.

We underscore the fact that we do have a deep appreciation of the laws which you, our Congress have passed, and we take no issue with any laws which you have passed, per se. Our statements, in the main, will be addressed to the Civil Rights Act of 1964, for two reasons.

First, the fact that we do not engage in the direct administration of any of the programs, as Mr. Beemon and Mr. DeFoor know.

The second reason, and we think of course the overriding reason, is that the Civil Rights Act, or, pardon me, the administration of the Civil Rights Act, has very gravely affected the administration of all of the other programs of education.

The complaints which I shall refer to in a moment have affected the effectiveness, the efficiency, at each local unit of administration, in some degree, with regard to all of these programs.

In the second instance, we would respectfully call your attention to our complaints. They are briefly listed in my initial statement in the brief, and they are documented.

Our first complaint is that we take issue with the promulgation of policies and guideline statements or directives by the U.S. Commissioner of Education or his staff members which are in conflict with the provisions of the law, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, in this instance.