

own philosophy and guidelines, which I have referred to previously in my statement, and to which I shall refer later.

Mrs. GREEN. I think it does point up to the people in Washington that there are problems which must be taken into consideration.

Mr. ACREE. Yes, ma'am.

We take no issue with the problems. We recognize that we have problems, Madam Chairman. It is primarily the manner in which these problems are approached, the way the solutions are developed and administered.

If I may proceed, our next complaint, Madam Chairman and members of the committee, we consider this to be a very grievous complaint. It is the fact that many of these representatives—and these are in some instances part-time employees, this past summer even college students, but not always part-time people—who go into a school community.

Possibly they have called the administrator, saying, "We will be in your community on such-and-such a date." Just that brief. Then they will proceed into the community, and they will proceed to interview certain select citizens. How they select them, I don't know. And they will garner from them opinions and information that they will refer to later, which we consider highly unfounded from the point of view of professional information.

The most important complaint we have on this score is the fact that they then proceed back to the administrator and his board members, and in essence accuse them of being out of compliance, or not in accord with the guidelines of the policy statement.

In essence, they are accusing these responsible school officials of being guilty in the first instance until they prove themselves innocent, based on such information as they have gathered in the manner in which I indicated.

We even complain, and seriously so, of the practice of their going into school systems, into the classrooms, and visiting—I am speaking of duly constituted officials from the Office of HEW—and questioning pupils and teachers, and then inviting someone from the office, maybe the principal of that school, to accompany them.

We think that is disruptive. We think it causes uneasiness, and finally leads to a deterioration in the morale and the good atmosphere, to say nothing of the administrative practices and policies.

Mrs. GREEN. May I interrupt you again?

Do you mean to say that this was done without even a courtesy call to the State superintendent's office?

Mr. ACREE. So far as I know, they didn't even call the State superintendent.

Mrs. GREEN. Or the city superintendent's office?

Mr. ACREE. But they, in many instances, possibly did call—I don't know of any instance that I could pinpoint where they didn't call sometime in advance, saying, "We will be in your community at such-and-such a date," but upon their arrival, they did not go to the office of the superintendent and pay their respects, and let him know they were in the community.

The first they knew of their being in the community was when they returned to his office, having visited these people and having garnered certain evidence which they proceeded to use in suggesting that these responsible school officials were out of compliance.