

Mrs. GREEN. May I comment here that Members of Congress would be sharply criticized, and rightfully so, if Congressmen from outside this district, though duly authorized to visit and make studies, first did not notify Mr. Landrum, who so long served on the Education Committee, and other Members from the area, and if we did not first of all make contacts with the duly authorized officials who bear the responsibilities and burdens of administering the programs.

I consider what you have described as a very bad situation, and certainly a very unwise use of authority.

Mr. ACREE. Thank you, ma'am.

We consider it as being one of the most serious complaints. It is really so diametrically opposed to our American way of life, it not only conflicts with good administrative practice in any profession, but it is in violation of our basic American tenets of Americanism.

And, of course, the next complaint we consider equally serious and contradictory to our American way of life. This is the demand for closed meetings, secret meetings, by these same officials.

They go to the State administrators. Of course, they have made an appointment, in this instance, where they want to meet with the board members and the superintendent.

Upon arriving, they not only let it be known, but they will sit for as long as is necessary, or they did, until one of your colleagues, the one who arrived this morning, where this last instance happened—it did happen more than once—until the local press, the Georgia Press Association, and Hon. Jack Flynt, intervened.

And then, of course, we received all sorts of apologies, saying that this was not intended, the Commissioner having made the statement that it was not intended, that there was some misunderstanding.

And, of course, one of our basic complaints is about these misunderstandings in every phase of the administration of these policies.

But we have furnished you with a lengthy transcript of what transpired. Mr. Flynt sat in on most of this meeting himself.

This is so grievous that we felt you should not only have a brief excerpt, but you should be able to get into the feel of the situation as it developed.

And lastly, we strongly complain of the suggested practices of the use of intimidation and coercion in an effort to achieve racial balance, or to do away with imbalances, whatever interpretation you might want to use of the terms.

You will find a notarized statement from one the finest citizens in Georgia, one of the finest members of the board of education, the Union City Board of Education, Union City, Ga.; a very distinguished gentleman, who has notarized to the effect that he and his board members were advised that if a teacher will not accept the assignment you give them, "Fire them, and then take steps to see that they are blacklisted, that they cannot secure a certificate, that they are barred from the profession."

You have that included in the material in the brief. Those are the sorts of things we are complaining of.

Mrs. GREEN. Did you say this was a directive?

Mr. ACREE. This was a directive given verbally to the members of the Union City Board of Education, in the presence of Mr. James Beavers, Jr.