

I believe that is exhibit K, on page 41.

On page 41 is the statement to which I referred.

Mrs. GREEN. Who gave that directive, Mr. Acree?

Mr. ACREE. A Mr. Rich, who wrote most of the memorandums, I believe all of those I have submitted to you in this brief.

The documented statement from the Griffin-Spalding County Board of Education, and a similar statement documented by the officials of the Telfair school system, included in our brief, substantiate our position in this area.

I was speaking of the coercion matter, which we have in our brief.

Those constitute our complaints, and in conclusion, unless there is some other question at this juncture—

Mrs. GREEN. May I again read the law: "that nothing shall be construed so as to authorize any department, agency, officer, or employee of the United States, to exercise any direction, supervision, or control over the curriculum, program of construction, administration, or personnel."

Mr. ACREE. It happens that the honorable gentleman was present at the board meeting when this particular subject was discussed, and I am sure he will have some observations to make in this connection.

I realize the time is running very tight, and I shall conclude my observations by suggesting to you that we respectfully request of you Members of Congress, and all of our other fine Congressmen, that somehow, some way, we all shall be brought to recognize the fact that the schools exist for a singular purpose: that policies and guidelines for the implementation of any and all Federal aid to education shall be construed in accordance with the purpose and intent of the public law; that we have valid interpretations that are consistent and practical for the implementation of all the provisions of these laws; that qualified personnel by training, experience, temperament, and otherwise, be used for the administration and implementation of the provisions of your laws; that the administrative structure be decentralized.

There has been some previous discussion on this. We heartily endorse the decentralization of the administrative proceedings, and insist that as such is done, the duly constituted State and local agencies be used in the administration, and that one and all recognize the fact that communities differ in personal and impersonal composition, and that no set of arbitrary standards, particularly involving percentages and other arbitrary formulas, can apply alike to all communities, where the human element is so terrifically involved.

We further, of course, appeal to one and all for the preservation and perpetuation of our own system of local control of our educational programs.

And in conclusion, we are most hopeful that immediate action will be taken by all concerned to prevent the utter deterioration of our school system, where we are losing administrators, board members, teachers, where bond issues hang in the balance, some failing, where education generally, the structural program particularly, is suffering, as a result of the complaints which we have registered today.

Thank you very kindly.

Mrs. GREEN. Thank you.

Congressman Erlenborn?

Mr. ERLBORN. No questions.