

(The prepared brief of Mr. Acree follows:)

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

I am Jack K. Acree, Executive Secretary of the Georgia School Boards Association, and the presentation which I shall make represents the position and attitude of the Association.

We of the Georgia School Boards Association wish to express our appreciation to each member of the Committee for this opportunity to appear before you in behalf of the local boards of education throughout Georgia.

Our presentation concerns the administration of federal laws pertaining to the public schools of our state, particularly the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

We commend you and the other members of our Congress for enacting laws which contribute to the total well-being of the people of our great nation, especially their educational welfare. We know that it is your will and the will of the people whom you represent that these laws always be administered in a way which will achieve the immediate purpose of the legislation in the most efficient and effective manner.

OUR POSITION

We of the Georgia School Boards Association are dedicated to the proposition that the very best possible educational opportunities must be made available to all of our youth.

Furthermore, we are committed to provide these educational opportunities in keeping with our American traditions which have nurtured and perpetuated the principle and practice of local control of our public school systems.

We believe that our schools exist for the singular purpose of educating our youth, and we hasten to take issue with the U.S. Commissioner of Education or anyone else who indicates that, "If I have my way, schools will be built for the primary purpose of social and economic integration."

We respect all local, state and federal laws concerning public school education. Furthermore, the boards of education we represent have the same high regard for the laws of our country.

We recognize the need for and completely endorse necessary statements of policy and guidelines for the implementation of all laws in a realistic, legalistic, and effective manner.

In other words, the position of the Georgia School Boards Association is and shall continue to be positive and constructive, not negative or evasive.

OUR COMPLAINTS

1. We vigorously protest the promulgation of policy and guideline statements by the U.S. Commissioner of Education, Harold Howe II, and his staff members which go beyond the provisions and intent of laws passed by Congress.

Specifically, we make reference to all policy and guideline statements which conflict with the following provisions of the Civil Rights Act of 1964:

(a) Title 4, Section 401, Paragraph B, "Desegregation" means the assignment of students to public schools and within such schools without regard to race, color, religion, or national origin, but 'desegregation' shall not mean the assignment of students to public schools in order to overcome racial imbalance."

(b) Title 6, Section 604, "Nothing contained in this Title shall be construed to authorize action under this Title by any Department or agency with respect to any employment practices or any employer, employment agency, or labor organization, except where a primary objective of the federal financial assistance is to provide employment."

Subsequent references and documented information will show beyond any question of doubt that Commissioner Howe and members of his staff have consistently formulated policy and exercised judgments which either conflict with or extend beyond the provisions of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

2. We deplore the absence of valid definitions and workable interpretations of key words and expressions in constant use by everyone involved in the application of the provisions of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The broad and constant application of the interpretations placed upon these words and terms affect both the integrity and financial solvency of many school boards. The following examples are submitted to substantiate this complaint: