

The following exhibits substantiate this complaint:

*Exhibit I:* Griffin-Spalding County Board of Education, pages 34-35.

*Exhibit J:* Telfair County Board of Education, page 38, paragraphs 11-18.

*Exhibit K:* Letter from Member of Newman City Board of Education on page 41.

8. Demands by HEW representatives for closed school board meetings.

The persistent demands by HEW representatives that representatives of the school community, including the press, be excluded from school board meetings where problems concerning compliance with HEW Guidelines were to be considered are in direct conflict with Georgia law which requires that all board meetings be open to the public. Furthermore, such demands glaringly contradict one of the most common admonitions from HEW officials to local school officials, that is, that they should solicit the assistance of citizens of the school community, particularly its leaders, in resolving problems pertaining to the desegregation of their schools. This practice clearly violates another one of the basic tenets of our American way of life.

This practice by HEW officials was not abandoned until considerable pressure was brought to bear by the local press, the Georgia Press Association, and Congressman John J. Flynt, Jr., in whose district the last in the series of such incidents took place.

The Exhibits referred to below furnish documented evidence of this complaint:

*Exhibit A:* Griffin-Spalding County Board of Education, pages 1 through 11.

*Exhibit J:* Telfair County Board of Education, pages 39-43.

9. Intimidation.

HEW officials have resorted to practices which might be characterized as acts of intimidation or even coercion in attempting to secure the transfer of teachers of one race to schools of another race.

The substance of the Exhibits referred to below substantiates this complaint:

*Exhibit H:* Griffin-Spalding County Board of Education, page 30, paragraph 2.

*Exhibit H:* Griffin-Spalding County School Board, page 31, paragraph 5, continued on page 32.

*Exhibit J:* Telfair County Board of Education, page 36, paragraphs 1-5.

*Exhibit K:* Letter from James Beavers, Member of Newman City Board of Education, on page 41.

We respectfully request and shall aggressively pursue the following:

(a) An acceptance of the fact by all responsible officials that our public schools exist for the singular purpose of educating people, and are not to be used under any circumstances in an effort to reform society, fulfil political expectations, or to achieve the objectives of other branches or agencies of government, no matter how worthy these objectives may be.

(b) Statements of policy and guidelines for the implementation of a given law which are strictly in keeping with the intent and provisions of the law.

(c) Valid definitions and interpretations of words, expressions, and objectives embraced in or suggested by laws passed by Congress. We respectfully request Congress to see that we are provided with such valid information.

(d) Responsible and professionally qualified personnel to interpret and administer federal laws in keeping with the provisions and intent of the laws.

(e) The decentralization of the administrative structure for the administration of all federal programs and projects and the channelling of all administrative policies and directives through duly constituted state and local agencies.

(f) Recognition by one and all of the well established fact that each community differs from every other in both personal and impersonal composition and that no arbitrary formula or set of criteria based upon ratios and percentages can be imposed upon all communities under any circumstances.

(g) An abiding respect by one and all for our democratic precepts and institutions. More especially do we seek to preserve and perpetuate our unique American policy which provides for local control of our public school systems.

(h) Lastly, we respectfully request that you and your fellow Congressmen take immediate action to deal with the fact that policies and practices documented in this presentation are defeating the primary purpose of your legislative action, which was, in the case of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, to up-grade educational experiences for all our youth. We submit that as a direct result of those things about which we complain many of our most *needy* children are being deprived of the benefits of your action; local school bond issues are failing because of the increasing confusion and lack of confidence; school board members, superintendents, and classroom teachers are leaving our public schools in