

DECEMBER 1, 1966.

Mrs. SARAH BENET,
 Murfreesboro, Tenn.

DEAR MRS. BENET: In a special session on November 8, 1965, the Coffee County Board of Education unanimously adopted the following policy:

"The Coffee County Board of Education will consider conducting or making their facilities available only, for those programs which come through the State Department of Education, or those initiated by the Coffee County Board of Education."

We feel that the local Board of Education should be permitted to perform the following functions with regard to any program for which it is to be held responsible.

1. Determine which programs, within the guidelines handed down from the Federal and State levels are suitable for the people who come under our jurisdiction.
2. Develop the program and a budget to carry out said program.
3. Set up employment standards and employ all personnel to carry out program.
4. Maintain all personnel and financial records which meets with the approval of the "Internal Accounting Code."
5. Carry out periodic evaluations to determine whether or not program is doing what it was designed to accomplish.

OEO Programs which come through Community Action Agencies do not permit many of the things which we have listed above. Some of our experiences and guidelines of OEO are as follows:

1. We have been told by authorities, the Regional OEO Office in Atlanta, that we have no choice as to the programs we will conduct at the local level.
2. The guidelines under which you develop your program are changed one week after the program has begun.
3. They withheld our "Head Start" funds because we refused to participate in a companion program called "Home Start."
4. The guidelines state clearly that a citizens advisory committee will select the "Head Start" director.
5. The guidelines state that one-half of Teacher Aides shall be parents of target children.
6. They ask you to submit a budget for your program which they change in the Regional Office in Atlanta.

We could list others but we think the above is more than enough to justify the action which our Board has taken.

Sincerely yours,

CLYDE WOOTEN,
 Chairman, Coffee County Board of Education.

Mrs. GREEN. Thank you very much, Mr. Brewer.

I think I will withhold any questions until we hear from the other people on the panel.

Mr. McLaurin, from South Carolina.

STATEMENT OF JOHN N. McLAURIN, JR., REPRESENTING SEVERAL STATE SCHOOL BOARD ASSOCIATIONS

Mr. McLAURIN. You notice, I have a very short statement.

Our executive director happened to be in the hospital. Our vice president found out at the last minute he could not attend, so I am the goat today, appearing for them.

I am also appearing in the capacity of chairman of a representative group from several State school board associations.

At a recent meeting of these representatives in Atlanta, Ga., on November 2, I was authorized to appear before the special congressional subcommittee if and when hearings were scheduled.