

I wish to express my appreciation to the members of this subcommittee for providing me with this opportunity to appear.

The primary purpose of State school boards associations is to assist local boards of education with common problems. The policies of each State association dictate a positive and constructive approach to those common problems to which the association addresses itself.

In no instance does an individual association, or combination of associations, propose to engage in activities of an evasive or negative nature.

Representatives of the associations meeting in Atlanta unanimously concluded that a cooperative course of action should be carefully formulated by the associations in developing good relations with the U.S. Office of Education, and with other Federal agencies affecting the operation and administration of our public schools.

The following objectives appeared to command the immediate interest of these associations:

(1) The preservation of local and State control in the operation and administration of our public schools.

(2) A clarification of the intent and the legal limitations of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 with regard to school desegregation.

(3) The promulgation of policies and guides for the implementation of proper legal interpretations of the 1964 Civil Rights Act which are in keeping with the law.

(4) The administration and implementation of policies and guidelines by representatives of HEW and other Federal agencies who are qualified both by training and experience to work with State and local school officials in a highly professional, ethical, and constructive manner.

This coordinated approach by the several State associations was deemed advisable due to the following policies and practices of certain Federal representatives:

Inability of State and local school officials to secure from HEW and other Federal officials timely and pertinent information in writing.

Instructions, interpretations, and suggestions from HEW and other Federal representatives which have been inconsistent, vague, and thus most confusing.

People assigned by the Office of HEW to work with local school officials who have proven inefficient and ineffective.

The practice of many HEW representatives in bypassing local school officials and securing fragmented information and unfounded opinions upon which to base judgments with regard to the degree of compliance of local school officials with HEW guidelines.

The development of a state of uncertainty and suspicion by some Federal representatives in their relations with State and local education officials.

In conclusion, I respectfully request that the members of this committee and other Members of Congress take necessary action to clarify the provisions and intent of all Federal legislation concerning public education.

Thank you.

Mrs. GREEN. Thank you very much.

And now may we hear from Mr. Bement, from the Kentucky School Boards Association.