

I am certain that you are familiar with the debate that took place on the floor of the House, at which time Congressman Flynt said that 13 of his school districts had been notified of the withholding or deferral of Federal funds, and Congressman Corman of California went over to the Office of Education to check this statement and was told that only one, Meriwether County, had funds withheld.

Congressman Flynt went back—and this is a direct quotation from Congressman Flynt—went back to Mr. Howe's office—

... and Mr. Howe has informed me there are presently outstanding at least 13 letters of disapproval, rejection, or deferral, and that he expects to recommend that all 13 school systems be held in non-compliance.

That is an illustration of the confusion that I referred to.

From the News and World Report, this week, one of the questions asked of Mr. Howe:

Your thinking has not yet reached the point where you would say to a school district that it must change its set-up in order to obtain a mixture of pupils?

Answer:

On, no. First of all, we haven't got that authority, and if we did have, we wouldn't use it. But we do think it is interesting for school districts to look at these findings and consider how they might react to them.

Yet you will have, in these documented papers given to you by Mr. Acree, that his men were given written memorandums to school districts in Georgia telling them to move entire grades from one school to another.

And one of the reasons that we have lost confidence is the fact that the Commissioner either does not know what his men are doing, which he should know, or else he is misstating the facts, when he says to the House Rules Committee, as quoted in one of the Atlanta papers on October 1:

U.S. Education Commissioner Harold Howe insisted before the House Rules Committee Friday that his office had not stepped outside the law in setting desegregation guidelines and getting local schools to comply. The Commissioner denied charges that the Office of Education's compliance officers had pressured school districts to achieve racial balance which is specifically prohibited by Title IV of the 1964 Act.

"We are not engaged in anything of that sort," Howe said.

Many of the people in these Southeastern States have suspicions of the motives of the Office of Education and of the Commissioner of Education, and they are well founded.

If we are to believe quotes from his speech, I would like to read this quote: As recently as May 3, in a speech at Columbia University, Mr. Howe was heard to say that if he had his way, the American school would be built for the primary purpose of social and economic integration.

The Commissioner of Education, in short—this is an editorial comment, not a quotation, and incidentally, this is from the Charlotte News—

Mr. Entwistle just finished testifying before you, here, but this is an indication of the interest in other States besides Georgia. This comes from the Charlotte News of Charlotte, N.C., Tuesday, September 6.

The Commissioner of Education, in short, has never given the slightest shred of evidence that he sees or values the difference between vigorous racial con-