

I must add that, in response to a letter of complaint, a representative of the Office of Education appeared in my office. Having a copy of the letter of complaint, I quickly proved that it was baseless by displaying a copy of the local newspapers in which the desegregation plan had been published.

Without going into minute details, which would be too time consuming at this hearing, the situation in 1966 was even worse.

The Clarke County Board of Education submitted form 441B with a statement that it would comply with only such modifications that would be in keeping with truth, fact, and feasibility in this community.

On this basis, the procedures were carried out, resulting in 17 percent, more than 500 of Negro pupils being accepted in formerly all-white schools.

This created crowded conditions in some schools, and left empty rooms in others.

As to staff desegregation, the school district has 13 teachers assigned and functioning well in desegregated situations. In addition to these, seven employees in supervisory and consultative positions serve on a desegregated basis.

On July 18, 1966, a letter was received stating that the school district was on a "deferral" list, and that no funds would be approved for any new programs involving Federal money. The letter pointed out that the "deferral" was based upon:

- (1) Notices to parents were not sent by first-class mail.
- (2) A slight change was made in the text of a letter which required the signature of the superintendent.
- (3) It was required that parents or guardians exercise the "freedom of choice."

The position of the Clarke County Board of Education was that:

- (1) The first-class-mail requirement was ridiculous on its face. The responsibility of the board was to send notices, explanations, and "freedom of choice" forms, and to receive the "freedom of choice" forms from parents.

This responsibility was carried out.

- (2) The text of the letter which required the signature of the superintendent stated:

Our community has adopted a school desegregation plan.

This was, in point of fact, untrue. A change was made so that the letter read:

Our Clarke County Board of Education has adopted a school desegregation plan, as required by the U.S. Office of Education.

- (3) To accept choice of schools made by 15-year-old children would tend to abrogate the responsibility of parents for their minor children.

No issue arose as a result of dealing with parents or guardians.

On August 9, 1966, three individuals who identified themselves as Mr. Corrigan, Mr. Prager, and Mr. Nelson, and who stated that they were representatives of the Office of Education, conferred with me in the presence of the attorney for the board of education.

This conference was recorded on tape. After a review of all points, they stated that they were satisfied that everything was in good order, and that they would so report to their supervisors.