

Mrs. GREEN. You don't think freedom-of-choice will work. What would you do? What would you have the Office of Education do, specifically?

Mr. ARONSON. I think we need be more result-oriented. And I don't think that the submission of a plan on its face is the beginning of compliance. It may be the beginning, but it certainly isn't the end.

Mrs. GREEN. Let's talk about specifics. To get to the results you want, what would you want to have the Office of Education do?

Mr. ARONSON. Certainly in Negro areas I would have them close Negro schools, or draw zone lines.

Mrs. GREEN. What in the law allows the Office of Education to, as you suggested, abolish Negro schools?

As I take it, you meant closing them down.

Mr. ARONSON. The law would not provide authority to issue a mandate to close the school, but the law could provide authority not to give Federal funds to such schools, where they found they were inferior to the continued education of these children.

And, therefore, Federal funds could be avoiding a problem which is prevalent throughout the South, of reconstructing little shamble Negro schools and making permanent plants out of them on a continued segregated basis.

Mrs. GREEN. I think I am really in sympathy with the views which you express, and I have been all my life, and I think the compliance with the 1954 decision has been far too slow. I think the 1964 Civil Rights Act should be enforced.

But I have serious reservations as to whether the Office of Education and employees of the Office of Education have any right to go beyond the law.

Now, this is what I think this committee is concerned about, and I think that I have been presented evidence where the guidelines have gone beyond what I interpret the law to allow.

Now, what would be really helpful to us, when I am basically in sympathy with your objectives, would be to give specifics that you think the Office of Education has a right to do, under the law, to bring about better schools for everybody, and equal opportunities.

Miss GREEN. May I point out on page 6 of our prepared statement, where you are talking about preparing compliance program: The Federal role should be to compile all available information, and work out with local officials and community leaders a comprehensive desegregation plan for that district.

This plan would include the closing of inferior schools, the maximum nonracial utilization of adequate facilities; school construction and site selection; the upgrading of programs, the reorganization of grades, the rerouting of buses, nonracial staff assignments, and in-service training remedial programs, to compensate for previous disadvantage, and the proposed use of State and Federal funds.

The Office of Education would provide technical assistance in the forms of model plans and staff to help develop these plans, which would have to be approved by the Commissioner.

Mr. ARONSON. Mrs. Green, may I respond just very shortly and say that I would be glad to supply your office with a memorandum of law which sets out the support I think is in the law, the 1964 Civil Rights Act, for the results that we are talking about.