

Mrs. GREEN. I wanted to read to you a law which applies to the Office of Education. It says specifically that neither the Office of Education nor any employee of the Office of Education shall have any right to have any supervision, control, or correction over the curriculum or the personnel of a school system.

It seems to me that the things that you have referred to on page 6 are outside of the law.

Miss GREEN. It seems to me that these things refer to an advisory role of the Office of Education in helping a community to work out a desegregation plan, rather than ordering them to do this.

Mrs. GREEN. May I quote:

Nothing contained in this Act shall be construed to authorize any department, agency, officer, or employee of the United States to exercise any direction, supervision, or control over the curriculum, the program of instruction, the administration or personnel, of any educational institution or school system, or the selection of library texts, or other materials, by any educational school system.

I think you are in an advisory role—offering information—but I don't think that the law allows the Office of Education to come in and supervise this kind of a thing, or even to work it out for them.

I think the local district has to do it.

The law does provide that if they don't comply with the law, their funds shall be withheld, and this I agree with. If they do not comply, then I think the funds should be withheld.

But I don't think, for example, that the law provides that you can abolish a school.

Mr. ARONSON. No. If I was understood to say that, I want to correct my testimony to say that what I think the law does provide is that they should and can withhold.

And I agree with you, and my criticism of the Office of Education is that they have been too lenient, and too slow, and often not present in cutting off.

There is too much money involved, and these local school districts will on their own, and through their own means, accomplish the end of segregated school systems, in most instances, if the very real threat of cutting money off is there.

I say at this time the threat is not real enough, and that the southern school districts are not fearful of losing their money, thinking they can continue on as they have been, and still keep on getting their money, as they do right now.

Mrs. GREEN. I think the area we might well have some difference of opinion on is: What is a desegregated school? And whether freedom-of-choice complies with the law.

Isn't this really the area of controversy?

I agree with you that after 12 years the number of integrated schools is small, but I just do not think we are going to solve the problem by going outside of the law.

If the law should be changed, the Members of Congress should have a full debate.

We are grateful to you. Some of you have traveled long distances.

I am very sorry that the time limitations were rather restrictive, but that is the way it goes on these field trips.

(Whereupon, at 4:55 p.m., the subcommittee adjourned.)