

were elected or appointed, because that could have some impact on my question.

Running throughout the entire testimony of both you gentlemen is an apprehension about too much involvement of the Federal Government and about diminution of State and local responsibility, if that is a fair summary.

Would it not be fair to turn to this terribly complicated problem that we all know faces us, would it not be fair to suggest that one way to keep the nose of the Federal camel out of the tent would be for local public school districts and State departments of public instruction to take some initiative and some leadership in solving the problem of de facto segregation?

In that way, you could have a good posture from which to say that the Federal Government might not be the one to push so hard in this respect. The National Association of School Boards, what are your people doing in this respect? Are you facing up to this problem?

Are you trying to provide leadership through your local school boards to attack this problem?

Mr. ACKERMAN. Well, I would say that we have had the general policy all through the years that we needed to provide equal educational opportunities for all and that you had to have full access to educational responsibilities and this had to be done without respect to race, ethnic backgrounds, religion or even in your social-economic conditions, so this has been more or less the general policy.

Now, when you are operating as the national organization you can voice the overall general policies that there should be no barriers, and yet you can't go out and eliminate all of them.

Mr. BRADEMAs. I am deeply saddened by your response but not surprised. It is easy to enunciate policy but I would just say this: I don't think local school boards should complain if Uncle Sam begins to move in this field, if they are not doing anything at the local level aside from passing resolutions.

Mr. ACKERMAN. I think we have been doing more than just passing resolutions.

Mr. BRADEMAs. Tell me, what have you been doing?

Mr. ACKERMAN. When you hold a series of meetings on this question and you stress the importance of the elimination of these barriers and you stress the need of joining with all community leaders in eliminating all of these evils in these barriers, I think you are doing something.

I think you can only move so rapidly in a situation such as this and I, personally, feel that when you begin to utilize the schools as the means of bringing about some social legislation, you are making education suffer, you see. But I think at the same time you have got to move in this direction as rapidly as you can get people to move.

Mr. BRADEMAs. To somebody who has been in Congress for several years you have just uttered a very revealing sentence.

I would be very glad if you could give us a memorandum telling us in rather specific, concrete ways what the NSBA has been doing aside from passing resolutions and holding conferences to enable our country to attack what I think most of us would agree is perhaps the thorniest problem in American public education today.