

perintendent of the State Department of Education, Louisiana; Mrs. Helen Lloyd, superintendent of schools, New York Board of Education; and Mr. E. B. Eller, assistant commissioner of the Department of Education of Nashville, Tenn., and any other witnesses that any members of the committee may desire to bring before the committee.

Mr. Hawkins?

Mr. HAWKINS. Not at this time.

Mr. BURTON. No.

Mr. PUCINSKI. No.

Mr. BRADEMAs. Nothing.

Chairman POWELL. Mrs. Mink.

Mrs. MINK. Nothing at this time.

Chairman POWELL. At this time we will hear from Commissioner Harold Howe from the Office of Education, accompanied by Mr. Arthur L. Harris.

STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER HAROLD HOWE II, U.S. OFFICE OF EDUCATION; ACCOMPANIED BY ARTHUR HARRIS, ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER FOR EDUCATION (ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION)

Mr. HOWE. Good morning, Mr. Chairman, I have a prepared statement which I would like to read.

Chairman POWELL. All right.

Mr. HOWE. Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, I am grateful for the opportunity you have given me today—an opportunity to say some of the things that need to be said about the current treatment of minority groups in school texts and library books.

Let me say at the outset that I have no desire whatsoever to dictate to anyone the content of a textbook or the treatment of a minority group in a school library volume. For equal to my concern about prejudice is my concern that there be no Federal censorship of ideas as expressed in books or other media.

In enacting the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, Congress wisely provided that the Office of Education should exercise no direction, supervision, or control over the selection of textbooks, library resources, and other instructional materials. This is as it should be.

In our pluralistic society no one person and no government office should make decisions as to what students read and learn. Such a power is wholly inconsistent with the concept of democracy as we know it. The Office of Education does not possess such a power, nor do we seek it.

Having said this, I feel it is not inappropriate for me to indicate concern over the treatment—or too often, lack of treatment—of minority racial and ethnic groups in children's literature today. My concern is both official, in my position as U.S. Commissioner of Education, and personal, as an educator and a citizen.

My official concern arises partly because of the vastly increased sums of Federal money which are being spent by local school districts for instructional materials since the passage of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. Title II of that act provided \$100 million for fiscal year 1966 specifically for textbooks, library books,