

Mr. HOWE. I think it has been a general problem North and South. I think if you were to seek two broad areas of concentration you would look for your concentration of Negro people in the United States. You would look at your big cities, primarily of the North. You would look at your concentrations in the South. You would then find your inadequate textbook problem located in those places.

Mr. DANIELS. I do not wish to monopolize the time, but I have one further question.

Mr. BELL. May I ask one question?

Mr. DANIELS. Surely.

Mr. BELL. I don't think you quite answered the chairman's question. Did you find a predominance of problems in the type of textbooks that we are talking about in the South as against the North or was it pretty well distributed?

Mr. HOWE. Again let me say we have not made a comprehensive study but sought opinions on this. In terms of this kind of look at the problem, I think we would find the issue the same in the two areas you name. I am expressing an opinion, but I sense more effort to do something about the problem in the cities of the North than among the school districts of the South with large numbers of Negro children.

Mr. DANIELS. One further question, do you know how many States provide free school books to children?

Mr. HOWE. I don't have it at my fingertips, but we can provide that for the record.

Mr. DANIELS. We would appreciate that.

(The information referred to follows:)

INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE, OFFICE OF EDUCATION¹

FURNISHING OF FREE TEXTBOOKS

Textbooks are furnished free, at least to some extent, in 36 states for elementary-school pupils and in 26 states for secondary-school pupils. Some of the exceptions depend upon the extent of money budgeted locally. Alabama is required by mandatory statute to furnish free textbooks for grades 1 through 3 only. In Kansas, free textbooks are to be furnished for children of the indigent if the local board so decides and includes the cost in the budget. (Table 1)

Ordinarily, furnishing free textbooks at either the elementary- or secondary-school level is mandatory by statute; in seven other states the statute is permissive for both school levels. When mandate by the state board (or department) is added to mandatory statutes, it may be seen that 34 states are required to furnish free textbooks for at least some of their elementary-school pupils, and 24 states are required to do so for their secondary-school pupils. Regardless of whether free textbooks are or may be furnished by either statute or policy, voter approval is required in seven states for elementary-school textbooks and in six states for secondary-school textbooks. (Table 1)

Textbooks not furnished free are available on a rental or purchase basis. When textbooks are available for rent, they are not usually so available for subjects; presumably some are free in some states. Books are more often furnished on a rental basis in secondary schools (14 states) than in elementary schools (9 states). The questionnaire on which these facts were compiled did not ask whether pupils must purchase textbooks; it was assumed that if they were not

¹ Source: NEA Research Memo, NEA Research Division, Research Memo 1963-32.