

Let me say again, however, because of the problem of censorship and because of the problem of the autonomy of the local school district and because of the interdiction of the Office of Education against entering into the control of curriculum, this is a difficult area in which to make substantive moves and we should do so carefully.

Mr. HAWKINS. My question would not apply to you individually, but the office you occupy. However, we can't help but believe that some clarification is needed, certainly with respect to such obvious discriminatory practices as you indicated in your very fine statement.

It would seem to me the intent of Congress was to help the disadvantaged. If this so-called local control is being observed and is serving to interfere with the intent of Congress in the passage of the act, then obviously we have not accomplished what we intended to accomplish and might as well repeal the act, if we are only going to allow the money to be so misused.

In those areas where you have disorders, people will take notice of the fact that Federal officials sometimes are a little hazy. We should not then be blaming militants all the time for causing trouble if we are foot dragging, as we feel obligated to do sometimes.

Chairman POWELL. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HAWKINS. Yes.

Chairman POWELL. Do you have an office of compliance?

Mr. HOWE. Yes, the Office of Equal Educational Opportunities.

Chairman POWELL. Does that Office check for compliance?

Mr. HOWE. Yes.

Chairman POWELL. Who is the head?

Mr. HOWE. Mr. Seeley is head of that Office.

Chairman POWELL. It is understaffed?

Mr. HOWE. I think we could use a larger staff.

Chairman POWELL. The gentleman from California.

Mr. BELL. Relative to the last question by Mr. Hawkins, I wonder whether the Department of Education has made it well known to the different States and local governments as to what the attitude or intent of Congress is relative to books, materials, and so on, relative to discrimination. Do you think the Department of Education has made this clear? What I am talking about is clarifying this intent. Might it not be better to make it clear to the local boards what Congress intended in a local and broad way?

Mr. HOWE. I think this is a very good comment. It is sometimes hard for me to be sure I am getting the exact intent of Congress when I am telling local boards what Congress proposed in this area, again because of this problem of what the Civil Rights Act says in title VI of the Education Act and then the posture of local autonomy.

I am not fully up on all the record and history of the enactments of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, but I don't recall from my incomplete knowledge any complete discussion of this issue we are now talking about. This conversation is useful. It will help us to do what you said.

Mr. BELL. I think it would be helpful to more or less get the word out that this is the intent without telling them what to do. All States should conform in general in the types of books and literature they get out. That was the intent and they should move in this direction; the local governments should try to do it, too. I think that should be first and later on we can discuss later action.