

followed by the commission and textbook companies; and (5) place and date for the first meeting of the textbook commission.

Members of the textbook commission who are teachers or principals in the elementary grades evaluate all textbooks offered for adoption in the elementary grades; members who are high school principals and teachers evaluate all textbooks offered for adoption in the high school field.

As stated above, each member of the commission may secure the help of such advisers as he may select. In this way the members of the commission have the privilege of securing the opinions of experts in a very technical field, as well as the opinions of persons whom they consider well qualified to evaluate books in a given subject area.

Each commission member must file a written evaluation of every book submitted. These evaluation reports must be signed by the member making the report and filed with the State superintendent of public instruction. In the evaluation of textbooks the members of the commission do not concern themselves in any way with the price of the book or its mechanical structure.

At the next meeting of the State board of education after evaluation reports are filed, the members of the appropriate textbook commission meet with the State board of education for joint examination of the reports. The State board then selects a multiple list of books (usually three or four) and requests sealed bids from the publishers of all books so selected. Sealed bids are opened at the next regular meeting of the board and contracts are awarded.

New free textbooks in grades 1 to 8 are sent to county and city boards of education by the division of textbooks of the State board of education.

Supplementary textbooks

The procedure for selecting and adopting supplementary textbooks is different in some respects from that employed in the selection and adoption of basal textbooks. When a supplementary adoption is authorized, the State superintendent sends a letter to all textbook publishers properly registered in the State, advising what type of material shall be submitted and when and to whom samples shall be sent.

Then, all books submitted for supplementary are evaluated by the professional staff of the State department of public instruction. At least three persons evaluate each title before a recommendation is made concerning the inclusion of a particular title on the recommended list to be presented by the superintendent of public instruction to the State board of education for adoption.

Subject specialists and generalists both serve on the evaluating teams. These teams include white and Negro professional staff members. If in the consideration of any book any question arises with regard to a racial or ethnic matter, both white and Negro staff members do a depth analysis to determine whether the book in question meets the basic criteria for selection, and whether the content is covered in an honest, unbiased manner. If a sharp difference should develop (to my knowledge no such difference has ever evolved), the opinion of the evaluators more closely allied to the topic covered would in all probability be followed.