

school authorities will continue to insist that all books shall be factual, accurate, and without any tinges of propaganda, artificiality, and distortion of fact.

If at any time any author or publisher submits to any of our school authorities any book concocted primarily to sell and not primarily to enhance and advance the learning of the children, the author and publisher will have their books rejected. As in all other areas of school operations North Carolina school authorities in the selection and adoption and use of books will continue to paramount excellence and cast aside everything else.

That represents, Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, the basis of my presentation, a code by the statutes and the criteria to which I referred earlier.

(The data referred to follows:)

STATUTES GOVERNING THE SELECTION AND ADOPTION OF TEXTBOOKS IN NORTH CAROLINA

A. BASAL TEXTBOOKS

*G.S. 115-206. Textbook needs are determined by course of study.*—When the State Board of Education shall have adopted, upon the recommendation of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, a standard course of study for each grade in the elementary school and in the high school setting forth what subjects shall be taught in each grade and outlining the basal and supplementary books on each subject to be used in each grade, the Board shall proceed to select and adopt such textbooks. Textbooks adopted in accordance with the provisions of this article shall be used by the public schools of the State. Such supplementary books as may be adopted shall neither displace nor be used to the exclusion of basal books.

*115-207. State Board of Education to select and adopt textbooks.*—The Board is hereby authorized to select and adopt for the exclusive use in the public schools of North Carolina, textbooks, publications, and instructional materials needed for instructional purposes in each grade and on each subject matter in which instruction is required by law. It shall adopt for a period of not less than five years, two or more basal primers for the first grade, two or more basal readers for each of the first three grades, one or more basal readers for grades four through eight inclusive, and one or more basal books or series of books on all other subjects required to be taught in the first eight grades, and one or more basal books for all subjects taught in the high school: Provided, further, that the State Board of Education may enter into contract with a publisher for a period of less than five years, if any advantage may accrue to the schools as a result of a shorter contract than five years.

*115-208. Appointment of Textbook Commission; members and chairman; compensation.*—The Governor, upon the recommendation of the State Superintendent, shall appoint a Textbook Commission of twelve members who shall hold office for four years, or until their successors are elected and qualified. The Governor shall fill all vacancies by appointment for the unexpired term. Seven of the members shall be outstanding teachers or principals in the elementary grades; five shall be outstanding teachers or principals in the high school grades: Provided, that one of the members may be a county or city superintendent. The Commission shall elect a chairman, subject to the approval of the State Superintendent. The members shall be paid a per diem and expenses as approved by the Board. The reenactment of this section shall not have the effect of vacating the appointment or changing the terms of any of the Commissioners heretofore appointed.

*115-209. Commission to evaluate books offered for adoption.*—The members of the Commission who are teachers or principals in the elementary grades shall evaluate all textbooks offered for adoption in the elementary grades. The members who are teachers or principals in the high schools shall evaluate all books offered for adoption in the high school grades.

Each member shall examine carefully and file a written evaluation of each book offered for adoption.