

The white people were gone, black people are children and this is the interpretation widely disseminated in northern cities as well as southern cities.

Mr. CAREY. Is that a specific reference in the book?

Mr. BENNETT. Yes, it is on page 391. On the next page——

Mr. CAREY. Are you reading directly from the book?

Mr. BENNETT. "Suppose you were awakened from sleep tonight and told your parents were gone away and had to look after yourself." It's a direct quote.

On the next page there are references to the fact that black people participated in the Reconstruction era. The references are uniformly negative so far as they relate to black people. We are told money was spent unwisely for various purposes. We are not told a great deal of this money was spent to create the South's first public welfare system and education system, money spent wisely.

There is a reference to the overthrow and Reconstruction. There are 282 remaining pages in this book but there is only one single reference to black people after the Reconstruction period. We are told some black people are moving to the North. There is an interesting discussion on the problems of the cities.

What are those problems? Water supply, streets, and traffic, the menace of fire and protecting property. This book even contrives to discuss at length the slums without once mentioning Negro Americans.

I thank you very much for this opportunity to say a few words on this subject.

Mr. BURTON. Thank you, Mr. Bennett.

Congressman Brademas?

Mr. BRADEMAS. Thank you very much for your extremely interesting testimony, Mr. Bennett.

On page 3, I believe, of your statement you call attention to the lack of material in American school textbooks on African history. Agreeing that that is probably an accurate description of the situation, would you not also agree that this is a reflection of the fact that we just have not paid enough attention to Africa generally in the United States and that the whole country has a long way to go in this respect? I, for instance, have been struck by the fact that the Secretary of State of the United States has never set foot on the continent of Africa.

You do not quarrel with what I have said?

Mr. BENNETT. I do not quarrel with what you have said. I think it is indeed a blind spot in our national life. I would also emphasize that in order to discuss at any level the history of America, we must realize that we are a combination of immigrants. We are a nation of immigrants. In order to discuss our country, you generally find some brief discussion of the Old World.

Where did these people come from? We find uniformly, with few exceptions—just in one or two texts I can think of at this time—you find almost a uniform absence of material or reference to Africa, where the black people came from. I am happy to note I have seen one book which discusses with understanding and sympathy the history of Africa prior to the white man and the contribution Africa made to world size.

Mr. BRADEMAS. If I might offer a modest plug for a bill that touches on this problem, this committee has worked to pass the International Education Act.