

Mr. VALDEZ. It is permissive and very much highly recommended. We suffer, perhaps, from the lack of proper material to teach a bilingual child the English language.

Mr. BRADEMAs. That brings me to my next and only other question: We have heard about how American Negroes are not fairly portrayed in school textbooks. To what extent do textbooks in the public schools of your State in your judgment give adequate attention to the Latin American heritage that is important in your State, and also to the heritage of the American Indian as well?

Mr. VALDEZ. Actually we have not been so concerned with that kind of representation. We have been more concerned in getting the proper facilities and the means of teaching and offering an opportunity for learning to the bilingual child.

Mr. BRADEMAs. Let me press my point a little further. Would a student in New Mexico's public schools be more likely in his history classes to learn something about Latin America than would a student in the schools of Illinois, let us say?

Mr. VALDEZ. I don't believe so except for the use of the local history because the books that we use in New Mexico, including the textbooks, are used nationally.

The comparison between Illinois and New Mexico in the recognition of Latin America would be the same in the textbooks.

Mr. BRADEMAs. Would you make the same observation with respect to the recognition of the role of the American Indian?

Mr. VALDEZ. The same; yes, sir.

Mr. BRADEMAs. Without knowing anything at all about your school system, I would think that would be a little distressing. One might have anticipated it would be helpful for young people growing up in your State to have a greater background in Latin American history than someone growing up in some other part of the country.

Mr. VALDEZ. I think it would be distressing at the more important points of considering such matters as the contents or the means of instructing the bilingual child, as far as I am concerned.

Mr. BRADEMAs. Thank you very much.

Mr. BURTON. Thank you, Mr. Valdez, your contribution has been most noteworthy.

(The statement referred to follows:)

PREPARED STATEMENT BY TITO VALDEZ, DIRECTOR, STATE TEXTBOOK DIVISION, SANTA FE, N. MEX.

I am an employee of the New Mexico Board of Education, and it is the policy of this Board to consider the people whom they serve as being equal and entitled to equal treatment in every aspect of educational opportunity.

Funds raised within the State are allocated to the local districts on a per capita basis to children of school age attending school in the State; and no attention is given to ethnic, religious, or any other difference that would class people into different groups.

The instructional materials adopted for use by schoolchildren are evaluated at the State as well as the local level, and we have never had any complaints regarding the content of our materials as being adverse toward any group or groups. The feeling of discrimination in the field of education with respect to minority groups appears to be nonexistent; and, consequently, some of the features of books that might be the cause of objections by minority groups in other States go unnoticed or are accepted as not being adverse in New Mexico.

The selection of the materials is made by the State Board of Education upon recommendation by its main evaluating committee, which serves at the State level. The recommendation of this committee is not made until the findings