

Mr. AVANTS. Mr. Chairman, I shall be glad to try to answer any questions you or any member of the committee may like to ask.

Mr. BURTON. You did very well. I enjoyed every word you said.
Congressman Hawkins.

Mr. HAWKINS. Mr. Avants, in your statement you say, "No State-adopted textbooks convey adverse attitudes toward minority groups." Is this a matter of policy and is this according to the instructions given for the evaluation or is this a statement based merely on your own experience?

Mr. AVANTS. This is a statement contained in the instructions to the committee. It is a directive of the superintendent and the State board of education.

Mr. HAWKINS. This is contained in the policy statement. Have you submitted that statement in any of the material?

Mr. AVANTS. Yes, it is submitted.

Mr. HAWKINS. Now, with respect to the private schools or nonpublic schools, would you say there has been an equitable distribution of textbooks and materials between these two groups?

Mr. AVANTS. I didn't get the question.

Mr. HAWKINS. I assume you do have quite a few parochial schools?

Mr. AVANTS. Yes, sir.

Mr. HAWKINS. Has there been an equitable distribution of textbooks and other materials to these groups?

Mr. AVANTS. Yes, the money is allotted for the children. I believe it was \$5.04 for books last year, I believe it is \$1.05 for library books for each child and then an allotment for paper, pencils, and ink. The money is allotted to the child. It is on a per membership allotment. We have not had any complaints. We have not had any criticisms of our method of distribution.

Mr. HAWKINS. That is all, thank you.

Mr. BURTON. Dr. Matthew?

Dr. MATTHEW. Did you say money is allotted to the schools, including the nonpublic schools, according to the number of children?

Mr. AVANTS. It is allotted according to the registration number. That is the way we arrive at our appropriation. We set up \$5.04 per child. This year's appropriation will be \$5 million, approximately, for textbooks. That is set up for private, public, and parochial schools. The reason is the local school districts get the money for the children enrolled in their public and parochial schools.

We set the money in those categories. The money is not actually sent out to the school system. They submit a list of the desired textbooks. We charge that against their account and pay the depository for the books. It is based on registration.

Dr. MATTHEW. How would the parochial and nonpublic schools be serviced under this arrangement?

Mr. AVANTS. The private and parochial schools make orders for their school and submit a composite book order to the local administrative unit. In Louisiana it is parishwide, the equivalent of saying countywide. The schools submit the order to the local school system, and it, in turn, submits the order to the State department of education. We process it to see that all the books were selected from the approved list. We then notify the depository to deliver those books.