

up, or degrade a child, regardless of whether he is a Catholic, Negro, Caucasian, French, or what have you. That is our attitude.

Mr. BURTON. I think these two things have to be read together. Our way of life has been determined in some parts of the country to mean segregation. It is your understanding "our way of life" does not have reference to that, is that your testimony?

Mr. AVANTS. My testimony is that integration is no longer an issue in Louisiana. It is a reality. We feel—I am speaking for the State superintendent and the board of education—we will not let a text go into our schools that we think ridicules any youngster in our school system.

Mr. BURTON. On the basis of their creed, race, or national origin?

Mr. AVANTS. That is correct.

Mr. HAWKINS. Is that controlled in Plaquemines Parish, which has been in the limelight recently?

Mr. AVANTS. Let me say Plaquemines Parish will abide by the same laws. We had the same situation in Orleans Parish and they are now complying with the law. Yesterday, without any duress from the Federal Government and without a court decree, the Orleans Parish desegregated the faculty.

Mr. HAWKINS. Public statements seem to contradict that. However, I will take your statement hoping what you say is the truth.

Mr. AVANTS. All I can speak on is past experience. We have 63 systems that are now in compliance or in the process of getting in compliance. They have court orders but they have not been approved yet by the Office of Education. All are complying with the provisions of the court order. All have met the requirements of the U.S. Office of Education.

Mr. BURTON. How many children do you have in your public school system?

Mr. AVANTS. About 468,000.

Mr. BURTON. How many children in the parochial school system?

Mr. AVANTS. Well over a hundred thousand.

Mr. BURTON. What is the ratio of Negro students to white students in the State?

Mr. AVANTS. I would have to figure out the ratio. I will give you the number, 468,000 to about 218,000.

Mr. BURTON. Wait a minute—468,000 is the number of whites?

Mr. AVANTS. Yes, and about 218,000.

Mr. BURTON. Negro students?

Mr. AVANTS. Yes, sir. I might get that exact figure.

Mr. BURTON. That is all right.

Mr. AVANTS. I am going from memory.

Mr. BURTON. Did you think I asked you how many white students were in the public school system the first time I asked?

Mr. AVANTS. Yes; will you ask the question again?

Mr. BURTON. How many students do you have in the public schools of Louisiana?

Mr. AVANTS. Approximately 700,000.

Mr. BURTON. Approximately 468,000 whites and 218,000 Negro?

Mr. AVANTS. Yes.

Mr. BURTON. Do you have any idea what the number in the parochial and private schools might be?