

Mr. AVANTS. I can give you New Orleans, the Orleans Parish system. Approximately 65,000 in the Orleans Parish are Negro students, 143,000 are white students.

Mr. BURTON. In parochial schools?

Mr. AVANTS. No; this is public; I have no way of knowing about the private schools. I don't have the statistics. I don't have the breakdown. I am using Orleans because it is the largest system involved. I would guess it perhaps would be 50 percent.

Mr. BURTON. Have you adopted any of the titles that deal in more affirmative terms with the multiethnic and racial nature of our society?

Mr. AVANTS. More positive terms?

Mr. BURTON. Yes.

Mr. AVANTS. Let me say this. I think it will be indicative of what we are trying to do. Up until April of 1964 we did not have any staff members in the State department of education who were members of the Negro race. We have employed professional members, and a secretary in our rehabilitation program.

This past week we interviewed people for a library position we have in the department. We employed a young man in vocational agriculture as an area supervisor. We are interviewing people in business education. We are interviewing them in health and physical education. I suspect today two will be employed, one in the library of science and one in home economics. We plan to bring in people in our elementary and high school division. This would be a positive indication that we are working toward a multiethnic group.

Mr. BURTON. No; I mean the textbooks that you use.

Mr. AVANTS. In our recent adoption, several books were adopted which contained multiethnic pictorials—I think it was in the reading series. Two or three of the five books we adopted had the multiethnic material.

Mr. BURTON. Those books were made available to public and private, integrated and segregated schools alike?

Mr. AVANTS. Correct.

Mr. BURTON. Could you make a note to yourself to provide the committee with the names of the titles of the books you have just made reference to? The committee will without objection insert the names of those titles in the record at this point.

Mr. AVANTS. I will be glad to.

(For material referred to, see appendix.)

Mr. BURTON. Thank you, Mr. Avants.

Mr. Eller.

STATEMENT OF E. B. ELLER, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER, DIVISION OF INSTRUCTION, STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, NASHVILLE, TENN.

Mr. BURTON. Identify yourself and please proceed.

Mr. ELLER. I am E. B. Eller, assistant commissioner for instruction, Tennessee State Department of Education, Nashville, Tenn.

Mr. Chairman, it is a privilege to appear before this distinguished committee of the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States on behalf of this important consideration of the texts and library books used in the Nation's schools. I am pleased to be