

Mr. SACKETT. We believe there is.

Dr. MATTHEW. Is your company planning to do any other publications in that area?

Mr. SACKETT. Very definitely.

Dr. MATTHEW. In the books you have, one finds urban experiences, sort of the every-day kind of experiences youngsters have and, of course, these are necessary in order for them to identify and to get some basic concepts. However, we have had testimony about the importance of children getting some feeling for their heritage and understanding it. This goes a little beyond the street corner, the home, and the local community kind of thing. That is why I asked if you were considering some substantive material of this other sort?

Mr. SACKETT. Very definitely. I would be happy to submit a list of those projects we have underway.

Dr. MATTHEW. That would be most helpful.

Mr. BURTON. I assume you will leave some, if not all those exhibits with us? ("William, Andy, and Ramon" (1966), "Five Friends at School" (1966).)¹

Mr. SACKETT. Yes.

Dr. MATTHEW. We will greatly appreciate your doing so.

Mr. BURTON. Mrs. Sterling?

STATEMENT OF MRS. DOROTHY STERLING, AUTHOR OF CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Mr. BURTON. We are pleased to welcome you.

Mrs. STERLING. It is an honor to be here today. I have a statement.

As a writer of half a dozen children's books on Negro history and life, I am convinced that Negroes in America are being as badly hurt by a "truth gap" as they are by a "job gap" or "housing gap." In the past decade I have observed this "truth gap" repeatedly in my visits to schools as a "guest discussion leader."

A characteristic encounter occurred following publication of my book, "Forever Free, The Story of the Emancipation Proclamation" when a panel of boys and girls interviewed me on a radio program.

In the course of our discussion they informed me:

- (1) that Negroes were the only people in history to gain their freedom without any effort on their own part,
- (2) that U.S. slaves had been well treated and happy, and
- (3) that the Reconstruction period following the Civil War was a "tragic era" of Negro misrule during which rapacious scalawags and carpetbaggers despoiled the South.

These were white boys and girls from a large New York City high school. They had been chosen to speak on the panel because they were the best history students in their class. They knew nothing of the 200,000 Negro soldiers and sailors who had fought for the Union during the Civil War. They had never heard of slave revolts or of the thousands of men and women who committed suicide rather than accept bondage.

Their distorted picture of the Reconstruction era included nothing of the many solid achievements of the Reconstruction governments or

¹ "Living as Neighbors (1966)" is third book in this series. Authors are Peter Buckley and Hortense Jones.