

One significant aspect of the pricing of books and materials made available at low cost, I think, can be found in the paperback field. In this area the price has not gone up as sharply as in hardbound books and the number of paperback titles today has escalated beyond everybody's expectation.

Within the paperback field there has been a noticeable change. During the last decade statements were made here in Congress and in the press that a great deal of material is fiction of a salacious nature; and sex, sadism, gunsmoking type materials seemed to be prevalent.

Paperback book titles amounted to about 10 percent of all books published in 1955 and now to 33 percent. The ratio of fiction and nonfiction had been reversed. Now, nonfiction is about 80 percent of titles published and in 1956 they were 39 percent. These paperbacks are available at various prices to schools and colleges and to individual buyers. There are now opportunities to buy very worthwhile material to supplement regular texts at a lower price.

Such serious nonfiction books have vastly increased in number. I think this is partly due to what sells. I don't know if the Nation's tastes has changed, but it promises well for the future.

In conclusion I would like to speak of what I consider to be amiss in publishing. I think previous witnesses have pointed to some shortcomings in books and types of books. I think there should be more books for various minority sectors of the community. I mean not only racial minorities but also handicapped adults and children. They see so many books where kids move and jump around. Whoever thinks of the affect this kind of literature has on a child spending the day in bed or in a wheelchair?

I do not believe there are enough materials to take this need into consideration. I think it would help if publishers would use the same research initiative of educators and librarians.

I think they should step forth, and maybe put some funds into related research. I have not seen much initiative in this direction even from the Office of Education.

Mr. BURTON. Thank you very much.

On your statement about other minority groups, that was quite interesting. There is a large number of retarded children in this country, a large number of physically handicapped, and financially handicapped people who are basically adult. These are often basically illiterate. You can't give them children's books. They are too mature for that.

Mr. BURTON. Do you recommend any textbooks available in the adult education field?

Dr. SCHICK. There are some I have seen but I think in terms of percentages it is a very small group. Economically speaking, if I may shift to a field more my own, this is understandable because there is not much profit. To publish for minorities, I don't think is good business.

Maybe it needs some subsidies. Why do paperbacks sell and why can't an impact be made in this area? Because there are millions of readers. For example, the first paperbacks in the religious field were Catholic books because they have a large group of potential readers. The moment you go to a religious minority group, there is the possibility that it would not pay.