

The attached graphic presentation—Chart F—compares price trends based on the Library Materials Index with those based on the average price received by publishers for four categories of general books. In the chart this latter index is called "Publishers Receipts Index." This chart was part of a presentation made by Dr. Frank Schick, Coordinator of Adult Education and Library Statistics of the U.S. Office of Education, at a conference at Buck Hill Falls, Pa., on April 27, 1966. You will note that the Publishers Receipts Index shows a much lesser rate of increase from the 1957-59 base period than does the Library Materials Index.

It should be pointed out that the Publishers Receipts Index for Juvenile Hard-bound Books also has a grave deficiency and needs to be recalculated separately for two different types of children's books—those in ordinary or so-called "trade" bindings and those in reinforced bindings for library use, which are more expensive to manufacture. This figure in the chart combines both types of children's books. Since there has been an increasing proportion of the more expensive library bound editions since the 1957-59 base period, the combined index figure has risen disproportionately by virtue of this change in the "mix." It is a little like measuring the average cost of automobiles if one had only two components—Chevrolets and Cadillacs—in a period in which the proportion of Cadillacs in the mix was continually increasing. We hope to go back to the base years of 1957-59 and collect from publishers information on the average price per copy received for these two types of children's books taken separately, and thus to be able to substitute two indexes for the present combined one.

I repeat that we should be glad to cooperate with the Department of HEW, the Office of Education and this Committee in arriving at a proper base for measuring changes in book prices. Meanwhile, we would hope that there would be more care in inserting the proper qualifications in any discussion of book prices based on the Library Materials Index.

Let me say in closing that we appear to be facing temporary production and distribution bottlenecks in meeting the large increase in demand for certain types of books on which the demand growing out of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 appears to be concentrating. We should be very happy if the Government agencies concerned, such as the Departments of Commerce and HEW, would sponsor a meeting of publishers, book manufacturers, book wholesalers, educators and librarians to discuss what might effectively be done to alleviate this production problem, which in turn might exert some upward pressure on book prices in the future. Let me add that this pressure of suddenly increased demand has not yet occurred in full force because of delays in getting the machinery of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act into operation. It is only now that the orders from the schools for books financed under the ESEA are beginning to flow into book wholesalers and publishers in significant amounts.