

The selection of textbooks and other curriculum materials is an important part of the educator's task. While a good textbook does not necessarily guarantee quality education, a good book in the hands of a good teacher can significantly assist in the learning process.

Our nation's textbooks reflect the goals and values of our society. Through them, adults transmit to children patterns of thought and behavior considered acceptable in the American culture. A book propagandizing for a totalitarian form of government, or one which portrays dishonesty as a permissible form of behavior, would find no market in the schools. Similarly, a book which fails to recognize important aspects of a democratic society should also find no market.

America is a nation in which diversity has been welded into unity. The people of America belong to many different racial, religious, and ethnic groups. Our democratic value system treasures this diversity within its unity.

Currently, many educators are concerned with the fact that textbooks used in our schools have not always adequately reflected this portion of the American ethnic. Textbook publishers share their concern and are taking steps to improve their offerings. Recently published books show an increased awareness of the multi-racial, multi-religious, and multi-ethnic character of our nation.