

STATE OF FLORIDA,
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,
Tallahassee, Fla., August 10, 1966.

Memorandum.

To : Hon. Adam Clayton Powell.

From : H. Finn Groover.

Subject : Responses to questions as per your letter of July 29, 1966.

Please find attached the answers to the questions as outlined per your request of July 29, 1966 and, as explained by my letter of August 10, 1966, as being sent under separate cover—50 copies each—for your perusal.

H. FINN GROOVER.

(a) "the position of your school system with regard to the treatment of minority groups in books for school use;"

Answer

Since the terminology of this question requests "the position of your school system with regard to the treatment of minority groups in books for school use", may I offer the following statement which was recommended to the State Board of Education on February 22, 1966, by the State Textbook Adoption Committee, and I quote said statement :

"in all instances where publishers offer, or have available, multi-ethnic editions of textbooks adopted in the State of Florida, it is recommended that the multi-ethnic edition be purchased".

This recommendation was approved by the State Board of Education on February 22, 1966, and is the policy followed by the State of Florida's State Textbook Program and the State Department of Education.

The Florida State Department of Education endorses the principles incorporated in the "School Library Bill of Rights" of the American Association of School Libraries in regard to the selection of library resources, and I quote, and may I respectfully call to your attention item number c.*"

"SCHOOL LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS

"School libraries are concerned with generating understanding of American freedoms and with the preservation of these freedoms through the development of informed and responsible citizens. To this end the American Association of School Librarians reaffirms the *Library Bill of Rights* of the American Library Association and asserts that the responsibility of the school library is:

"a. To provide materials that will enrich and support the curriculum, take into consideration the varied interests, abilities, and maturity levels of the pupils served.

"b. To provide materials that will stimulate growth in factual knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic values, and ethical standards.

"c. To provide a background of information which will enable pupils to make intelligent judgments in their daily life.

"d. To provide materials on opposing sides of controversial issues so that young citizens may develop under guidance the practice of critical reading and thinking.

"*e. To provide materials representative of the many religious, ethnic, and cultural groups and their contributions to our American heritage.

"f. To place principle above personal opinion and reason above prejudice in the selection of materials of the highest quality in order to assure a comprehensive collection appropriate for the users of the library."

(b) "efforts of educational authorities in your state and local districts to provide for all children text and library books which rectify adverse attitudes toward minority groups;"

Answer

The answer to question (a) expresses the State Board of Education's philosophy in relation to the state's approach to provide for all children textbooks and library books which present the many religious, ethnic, and cultural groups and their contributions to our American heritage.

The State Courses of Study Committee, consisting of twelve members, nine of whom are actively engaged in school work and three of whom are lay citizens, and which structures the criteria for textbook selection for the State of Florida, states in their general criteria for selection of textbooks in all subject areas, and I quote section 3 (see attached criteria) :