

The Civil Rights Commission recently came out with a recommendation that in no school should there be more than 50 percent Negroes. I am asking if the newspaper report was accurate, that you endorsed this particular recommendation?

Mr. HOWE. I didn't endorse the recommendation in the sense of endorsing the legislation they propose. I did endorse the statement of the Civil Rights Commission in the sense that I said that the Civil Rights Commission had identified for us, in a very good way, an issue that I believe they are right about: that ultimately, in order to provide quality education, we would have to provide desegregated education.

Their report makes this very clear. But I have made no comment at all on the idea of setting up specific percentages of youngsters, as their report suggests.

Mrs. GREEN. We know you are in favor of the present program, of course, to integrate schools, but how did their recommendation that you endorsed differ from the present situation? That is, if you were not endorsing the 50 percent?

Mr. HOWE. I was not endorsing the suggested Federal legislation for required racial balancing which they suggested in their report. It seems to me, to elaborate on this a little bit, if the Federal Government is going to get into that kind of an activity, it probably ought to do so by creating the incentives so that people in local school districts can make their decisions about this sort of thing, rather than by actually legislating required percentages of change.

We have school districts now, and we have States, which have interest in doing that sort of thing. The State of Massachusetts has passed a racial balancing act through its legislature, and is about the business of doing the kind of thing that the Civil Rights Commission suggests.

Some cities have expressed interest in doing this kind of thing and are using some of the programs that we make available to them to advance it.

But it seems to me that there are many very practical problems about requiring racial balancing on a required basis with penalties attached to it if it is not done. This is the kind of issue, I think, we ought to walk very slowly on.

Mrs. GREEN. Thank you.

Chairman PERKINS. Mr. Bell?

Mr. BELL. Mr. Commissioner, as I understand it from your testimony, there are 27,000 school districts in the Nation, and 17,000, roughly, that are being affected by title I. I want to retrace some figures you gave me.

Did you say 115 school districts were being covered by the Teacher Corps?

Mr. HOWE. 110.

Mr. BELL. If the figures you are going to give me on the number of school districts affected by the colleges that have their own programs, if it is rather small or close to that figure, we are really not scratching the surface, are we?

Mr. HOWE. The Teacher Corps is really a demonstration operation which has, I think, one of its major advantages in encouraging institutions to go ahead with training programs that focus more on teachers who will work with disadvantaged youngsters.