

Chairman PERKINS. Thank you very much for an excellent statement, Dr. Donovan. We will withhold our questioning until we hear from all of you distinguished educators today. Who will speak next?

Mr. DONOVAN. Sir, because one of our superintendents has to catch an early plane and has to go back to a board meeting, I wonder if the superintendent from Detroit, Mr. Drachler, might be next?

Chairman PERKINS. Mr. Ford, did you wish to be recognized?

Mr. FORD. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is a great pleasure for me as member of this committee to see Mr. Drachler here representing the largest city in the State of Michigan and one with an outstanding record for a school system.

The gentleman has been a friend of this legislation and has been with the Detroit public school system in a very important and sensitive position for quite some time. Those of us who were privileged to read in yesterday's paper that he has been changed from the acting superintendent to the superintendent of the schools for the city of Detroit were very pleased to see this acting position made permanent.

We believe that the record he has made in the school system speaks well for what I believe to be one of the toughest jobs for anyone in public life today, superintendent of schools of the city of Detroit.

Dr. Drachler, on behalf of the committee, and my colleagues who I know share my interest for your success in your new job, welcome you today.

I have just committed a great faux pas before the committee. It is Dr. Drachler. Wherever I used the identification of Mister, please change it to Doctor.

Dr. DRACHLER. Thank you, Mr. Ford. Youngsters have said I am the kind of doctor who can't do any good.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I deem it a great honor in my first official act as superintendent of Detroit schools to have an opportunity to appear before this honorable committee. My colleagues will address themselves particularly to the Federal aspects of the legislation. Permit me to just describe for a few minutes the needs of Detroit.

Our formal testimony has been presented to you.

I want to indicate that Detroit is a fiscally independent school system. We are a district completely independent of city government, and we have no one but the voters to turn to for educational aid.

There are approximately 800,000 registered voters, of whom 200,000 are citizens 65 years and over. It is a city with many contrasting values. You will recognize that frequent elections requesting additional property aid on property that is already taxed to the limit does not add to the life expectancy of any superintendent.

I would like to simply make my remarks as they pertain to Detroit based on the issues before this committee.

On the National Teachers Corps, let me briefly say that Detroit has a school enrollment of approximately 300,000 children with about 11,000 teachers. Our basic premise is that all children are educable, that lack of motivation, poverty, physical handicaps, and even lack of funds, must serve not as explanations for our shortcomings, but as guidelines for developing skills, attitudes, and programs necessary for the success of each student.