

I am sure Dr. Briggs will present fine testimony before this committee. I am anxious to hear his testimony along with that of the other superintendents.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman PERKINS. Dr. Briggs, Congressman Vanik, as you know, has been one of our most ardent supporters of all educational programs that have come on the floor of the House for many years. I am glad he was here to introduce you. Again let me welcome you before the committee this morning.

You may proceed.

**STATEMENT OF DR. PAUL BRIGGS, SUPERINTENDENT, CLEVELAND
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM**

Mr. BRIGGS. I might say that we superintendents enjoy the opportunity of coming to Washington, Mr. Chairman and Members, to come and testify before this committee, particularly when our Congressmen are present for introducing us to the committee. We don't always get these introductions at home.

It is nice to come to Washington and hear these nice things said about superintendents.

I am very happy to appear before this committee and to speak briefly about the needs, the programs, and the progress that is being made in the Cleveland public schools. I am especially appreciative of the efforts of this committee, which have been consistently made to improve the quality of education in our great urban centers of America.

I would like first to acknowledge briefly the benefits that we have already derived from the provisions of the Federal education laws. Second, to react to the Elementary and Secondary Education Amendments of 1967 and, three, to bring to the attention of the committee certain problems that we face in education in the city of Cleveland.

Since I last appeared here, much progress has been made in the quality and in the quantity of educational offerings in the city of Cleveland. The voters of Cleveland last November dramatically supported the largest financial issue that our Cleveland public schools have ever placed on the ballot.

They approved increasing the bondage indebtedness of our Cleveland school system by 110 percent, and at the same time increased by 20 percent the local taxes for the operation of our schools. This voter support came at a time when other Ohio districts were rejecting school issues, and when the city of Cleveland placed nine money issues on the ballot and the people turned five of those money issues down.

At this time, the people of Cleveland with a 70-percent plurality vote, approved the money issues for the Cleveland public schools. I might say in Cleveland we raised 80 percent of all the funds used for education. The city overburden in Cleveland is a big one. I might add that in the most distressed areas of our city, areas where a few years ago we were constructing schools behind barbed wire with 24-hour armed guards, that section of town approved our issue with a 90-percent plurality vote.

Now I would like to recount some of the benefits that we have recently derived from Federal legislation supporting education in Cleve-