

in this category in the Nation. There is just no good argument for getting such legislation passed.

What will happen to my school district of Hardin County with its 7,220 schoolchildren if this amendment remains a part of the impacted area legislation and if the attorney general of Kentucky fails to give a favorable ruling and the State legislature fails to pass enabling legislation?

There are at present 2,755 children eligible to receive aid from Public Law 874. Under the Armed Forces interpretation, in Hardin County, 1,147 of these children would qualify under the new law. This would mean that we would have to deduct \$184,920 from the 1968 school budget. This would amount to a cut in salary of more than \$600 for each of our 300 teachers. Such a reduction in salary would not be allowed under the law, which sets a minimum salary which must be paid. Even though the law allowed this, our teachers would not stay in the system and it would be impossible to hire others. Without staff, our schools would be ruined, and 7,220 children would suffer the consequences.

We have no alternatives. We are at the mercy of three forces: the attorney general of the State, the State legislature, and the Congress of the United States. One of these agencies must act or our school system will be wrecked. What is true in Hardin County will also be true of others in the poor Southland.

Chairman PERKINS. Have you discussed this particular amendment with your impacted people throughout the country? Is this the only hardship that exists in Kentucky? As I recall, the people pretty well supported this amendment last year throughout the county, I could be wrong.

Mr. BURKHEAD. It was in there, Mr. Perkins. Of course, there were about eight States affected, and they are the Southern States.

Chairman PERKINS. Let me say to my good friend that this was discussed openly. We all knew the true import of it when we put it in here, except we felt like you would get a favorable ruling without difficulty. We could see no reason why the way the other States had applied. But be that as it may, we will try to render all justice here that is possible.

Go ahead.

Mr. BURKHEAD. I would like to explain further the helplessness of my district in absorbing this loss in revenue. For the past 15 years, we have levied the maximum tax rate allowed under Kentucky laws. Our bonding capacity has been continually exhausted from building 224 new classrooms and in making other capital outlay investments. This fiscal year we were permitted a 10-percent increase in the tax rate; we were also allowed to levy a 3-percent tax on utility bills. This, the board did; they also agreed to levy an additional 10 percent for the next school year, which was also permitted by law.

In spite of our having levied the maximum taxes under State law and in spite of our having issued all the bonds for construction permitted under the law, we were forced to have 600 children on double sessions this past fall. The future becomes a calamity if this amendment, subsection 204 of section 6 of title I, goes into effect on June 30, 1968.