

per dollar spent than a group newly assembled for this specific purpose. In fact, with the present shortage of professionals in this field, I would question in any State that would compare favorably with resources already to be found in that State's department of education.

It has been a privilege to appear before this committee. The school system I represent appreciates the opportunity to express to you our thoughts on the subject you are considering.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Chairman PERKINS. Thank you very much.

Mr. DODSON. Our next witness is Dr. W. R. McNeill.

STATEMENT OF W. R. McNEILL, SUPERINTENDENT, BOWLING GREEN INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS, BOWLING GREEN, KY.

Mr. McNEILL. Honorable Chairman and distinguished members of the House Education and Labor Committee, I wish to thank you sincerely for this opportunity of appearing before you in behalf of children in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and particularly in the city of Bowling Green, who have profited immensely from the fine effort on your part through the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. I have with me some exhibit material that I would like to present, material on our reading center, and material from our guidance division which is part of this act, and also a dropout study that is being carried on.

May I at this time quote from comments the reading material center presented as they embarked upon their work, showing the deep sincerity of our appreciation.

This marks the beginning of a new era in education. For all teachers this is an exciting and dreamed-of experience in our teaching career. Title I funds are providing new horizons for our economically, culturally, and educationally deprived students. The reading centers are one facet of this Federal program in which our staff members are seeking to provide equal opportunity to students through differential treatment without regard to race, creed, or national origin. Our purpose in this remedial reading project is to establish a program geared to the needs of the aforementioned students.

May I say that we have as a result of these opportunities you have provided us been able to do things that we have wanted to do for so long, to probe the very depth, as you will find as we discuss the surveys we have made through the guidance division where we would talk with parents, we would bring parents in and talk with them about our problems, as we worked with the underprivileged children they would sit in our midst, they would talk with us and we would then develop programs that would meet the needs. We are approaching the very zenith of our desire to work toward the one to one ratio of individualized instruction.

May I hasten to add that other areas beside title I are particularly beneficial because we have been benefactors from an area of title III where we have an individualized instruction program going in one of our schools that serves some 40 counties and about 50 school districts in our area, where these people through the funds you have provided us, are visiting communities throughout the Nation and are bringing innovations that we are using to provide our children the opportunity to obtain this instruction on an individualized basis.