

We hope that we may be permitted to suggest, to provide information, and to raise questions. We can assure you that our total commitment to quality education, that education is a vital basic force in shaping the quality of American life and that what happens in the classroom ultimately happens in America.

Particularly since the passage of the Elementary-Secondary School Act of 1965 we have had the privilege of working with Members of Congress and with this committee in common purpose. The U.S. Office of Education has been most cooperative. We hope and we trust that this spirit of partnership may continue to grow. We believe it is possible to build this relationship and strengthen education without Federal control and without excessive loss of energy through duplication or redtape. We pledge our full cooperation to this end.

Already some of the problems have been introduced relative to the problems of the local agencies, with the Federal Government in common purpose and particularly timing.

Chairman PERKINS. Do you have copies of your statement with you today?

Mr. PHILLIPS. A limited number. I am just about to call on Mr. Eldon Stimbert at my immediate right who will make a statement. I believe he has presented copies to you. I think this would be a good time to call on him.

STATEMENT OF E. C. STIMBERT, SUPERINTENDENT, MEMPHIS CITY SCHOOLS AND MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

Mr. STIMBERT. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, first, of course, we do want to say how much your dedication to education has meant across the Nation. Probably never before has the news media and public in general raised education to such a high level, their concern and their involvement.

It is a privilege and honor to appear before you along with my colleagues of the American Association of School Administrators. I wish to compliment the chairman and members of the committee—and members of the committee staff for their wisdom, moral courage, dedication, and demonstrated leadership, which in combination have resulted in a contribution to the improvement of the quality of elementary and secondary education unparalleled in the history of our country.

The number of educational bills enacted by the 89th Congress is significant and their impact upon the educational community and the general public is indeed impressive.

The Memphis news media carry almost as many stories about educational activities in the Midsouth as they do about the war in South Vietnam. Generally speaking this is the situation across the Nation. Today education is front page news; 2 to 3 years ago this was not the situation. Education is riding the crest of favorable opinion of the vast majority of the people of this country. Our country is changing rapidly in all areas—science, agriculture, technology, medicine, electronics, communication, and transportation—to name but a few.