

No. 1, do you or can you give us any indication as to whether or not you think her profession would have been of assistance had they been involved in the New York City situation that was in the press this morning, where the teachers resigned because of physical danger?

Mr. NIEMEYER. Well, the problem that you refer to of the resignation of the teachers over the lack of discipline in a particular school is really the outcome of a tremendously complex situation in the school, and I think that I would just—I would be very naive if I were to say that just the inclusion of teacher aides would make a difference in such a situation.

I have not—this is a school that my colleagues have not been working in, so I have no firsthand account. I do know, however, that my college is working in 25 elementary and junior high schools in Harlem, and they are representative of the most educationally deprived schools in New York and Chicago, and all of the other big cities, and we have no situation of this kind. We are more concerned about the kind of protest which got crowded off the papers today, in which the parents of 125 and 36, 36 being a new school that is going to be the primary branch of 125, which will be the upper school branch of the hyphenated school, the parents picketed the school on Thursday and Friday, and then withdrew and sent to temporary schools located in churches around 1,200 of the 1,800 children on Monday, and I didn't have any report of what happened yesterday.

This is a protest over—and again it is an illustration of the complications which a big school system faces. The protest is here, protest by parents, and I have met with them and at their invitation, and talked with them a number of times, and I met with them at a meeting with Dr. Donovan, who want simply to have a voice in interviewing and making a recommendation about candidates who are the candidates on the list for the job of principal.

They feel, these parents, that unless the principal feels that the parents have some voice in the school, and unless they, the parents, have had that voice, and thus have some confidence in the principal of the school, that there can't be a good school, and I think they are right.

Now, I don't think that if you have that, it alone will give you a good school, but I don't see how you can have a really good school when the parents and the administration of a school do not have mutual respect.

And so I am as troubled about that as I am about resignations over people being slugged. Now, I don't like people being slugged; don't misunderstand me.

Mr. STEIGER. You would contend, however, and perhaps Mrs. Williams might wish to comment, that the individual attention which a paraprofessional can give in assisting the professional teacher can go a long way toward removing or alleviating some of these problems. Would you agree with that?

Mr. NIEMEYER. Well, I would say this, that the children in schools of this kind need, as I will just repeat what I said to Congressman Carey, they absolutely have to have more adults working with them than 1 per 30.

Secondly, if this does not happen, they are not going to develop even the basic skills which must be developed in elementary school, and,