

1300 ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION AMENDMENTS

well acquainted with the home environment of each child and to analyze the surrounding neighborhood.

Routine visits are made to the homes and parents are invited to observe the children and to participate in their many learning activities. In like manner the parents are proud of the fact that team members visited the homes during the preplanning week in order to get acquainted with them. One mother remarked to the principal "She must be a good teacher. She came in and sat down in my house and invited me to come and see my son in the classroom."

Further, parents are frequently invited to meetings at the school for the purpose of gaining new insights into the ways of helping their children at home.

Suggestions are given, health rules and the importance of family unity, and another evidence of involvement of parents is that they accompany the children on the trips to help the teacher and this is good in that the parents are learning along with the children and can understand more fully what the school is trying to do. It is significant that the teachers have learned to converse with parents who have limited cultural backgrounds to the extent that the parents feel at ease and friendly around them.

The parents take pride in witnessing programs presented by their children. A little welcome address or a goodbye song thrills the heart of every parent.

The Nash-Washington area Office of Economic Opportunity in Atlanta, Inc., was a great help to the team during registration week. The office furnished the team with the names and addresses of families with children of kindergarten age. This saved much time and effort in locating pupils to be enrolled on time. This helped to increase the enrollment more than 10 percent over the previous year.

The EOA workers also assist in securing clothing for children who need it and constantly inform the teachers of needs of those children enrolled in the program.

One of the greatest problems that has been faced in the initiation of the National Teacher Corps program has been the unavailability of funds from the proposed budget because of the late appropriation; therefore, I recommend that the funds be allotted sufficiently early in order that the full program may be carried out. Too often members of the staff, or the school, have had to use their personal resources to finance activities such as trips.

In conclusion, as a principal of a school in which a Teacher Corps program operates, I wish to stress that the National Teacher Corps has had a tremendous impact upon the professional growth of the teaching team and faculty in general and the cultural growth of both the kindergarten children and their parents.

It is my sincere hope that this program will not only be continued but will be greatly expanded in the future.

Thank you very much.

(The document referred to follows:)

TESTIMONY BY DOROTHY ELIZABETH HORNSBY, PRINCIPAL MARY McLEOD BETHUNE
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It has long been a matter of great concern to the principal and faculty of the Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary School that the children who entered the kindergarten have been deprived of many of the cultural advantages of the aver-