

the Congress also through the 80th Congress. In every successive Congress since the 81st all through the years he has come before this committee repeatedly urging the Committee on Education and Labor to approve Federal aid to education.

I doubt that anyone is more familiar with the obstacles that we have been confronted with over a period of years than Andrew Biemiller, and I am delighted to welcome him here this morning, and I am likewise delighted to welcome here Carl Megal of the American Federation of Teachers.

Both of these distinguished gentlemen have appeared before our committee frequently when we were writing the Elementary and Secondary Act of 1965 to give us the benefit of their views.

Mr. Biemiller, do you want to introduce anyone who is with you today, and you may proceed in any way you care to.

STATEMENT OF ANDREW J. BIEMILLER, THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR & CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS, ACCOMPANIED BY WALTER DAVIS, DIRECTOR OF THE AFL-CIO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION; AND JACK SESSIONS, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE AFL-CIO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, AND A MEMBER OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Mr. BIEMILLER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your kind and generous remarks. I am accompanied by Mr. Walter Davis on my immediate right, director of the AFL-CIO Department of Education. He succeeded Mr. Rogen, whom you will remember has been here in past years. Mr. Rogen accepted a position at American University.

Further to the right is Mr. Jack Sessions, who is an assistant director of our department of education and a member of the School Board of the District of Columbia. I trust as the dialog develops that they may be permitted to participate at an appropriate time.

Mr. Chairman, my name is Andrew J. Biemiller. I am the director of the AFL-CIO Department of Legislation.

The American Federation of Labor & Congress of Industrial Organizations is pleased to have this opportunity to meet then with this committee, to pay testimony to the significant benefits which the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 has brought to millions of America's children and young people, and to discuss the various amendments to that act proposed in H.R. 6230.

We are proud to have played a major part in shaping the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and in helping to secure its passage. In every part of the Nation, this Federal support is being used to bring new educational opportunities to the children who most need them, the children from low-income families who must have excellence in education if they are to break out of the poverty cycle which has entrapped their families, in many cases for several generations.

Other features of this measure have placed books in previously empty school libraries, financed innovative educational courses and programs, and strengthened the support for long needed educational research.

Experience has shown that there is need for improvement and extension of the original legislation, but this should in no way detract