

Mr. SCHERLE. For the many hours that I have sat through testimony here I have heard very little mention of the rural poverty stricken, and coming from a State that has the highest literacy rate in the Union, Iowa, many of the programs innovated here we do not have, but we do have areas that could stand and use additional help.

Your organization is represented there just as well as it is here. I can find no area or no means of support that you have given back there, as you are emphasizing here in your testimony here today.

Mr. BIEMILLER. Congressman, I would be very happy to talk to our Iowa people. I can tell you in terms of the State where I had the pleasure of not only being a general organizer for the movement but a member of the legislature in 1939, 1940, and 1941 in Wisconsin we paid a great deal of attention to rural education as well as city education.

Mr. SCHERLE. What were some of the things you did?

Mr. BIEMILLER. We worked very closely with the farm organizations. We certainly were always in favor of getting an equalization formula that would pay special attention to rural problems and I represented a city of Milwaukee district here from my own constituents who felt I was leaning over backward in terms of some of those equalization programs and the State federation of labor was always behind that program in our State.

I can't testify for recent years because I have not been there but I can certainly tell you what was going on in that period.

Mr. SCHERLE. There is a great deal of publicity this year throughout the Nation in regard to the series of teacher strikes. Were they basically in areas where the AFL-CIO or A.F. of T. were prominent?

Mr. BIEMILLER. Mr. Herrick Roth can speak to that.

Mr. ROTH. There have been strikes of both kinds of organizations that represent teachers, both the association and the union. Most of these have been in cities. Most of them have been over difficulties of determining who the representing authorities would be for collective bargaining or collective negotiations purposes, but both organizations have been involved.

Mr. SCHERLE. Do you think this is a healthy situation for the children involved for the teachers to strike?

Mr. ROTH. I think the position of our organization is that the strike is the very last resort that anybody uses including the teachers. We heard an excellent statement at a conference which we attended yesterday by the Under Secretary of Labor in which I think he put his finger on the problem.

The problem is that the frustrations of teachers get so great at a point where all reason and logic fail that is at that point is where they actually leave the classroom.

I would like to refer to a statement by the Association of American School Boards where he pointed out that there were more days lost in schools for going to special athletic events and for legalized including your State for teacher conventions, that have been written into law for some time than have ever been lost in teachers leaving the classroom but the greatest loss is in the great turnover of teachers.

The statistics in the Office of Education are extremely good on this. Only 11 percent of all of the people who are certified to teach ever