

Chairman PERKINS. And you are making that statement from your experience upon the Cleveland public school board?

Mr. CALKINS. I am, sir, and what I would like to do is to explain to you why I believe this is so.

Chairman PERKINS. Go ahead.

Mr. CALKINS. It is essentially a political reason. I must start with the financial problem of the Cleveland schools. We are now spending approximately \$530 per pupil per year for all purposes; operating purposes, building purposes. This includes all of our Federal programs for inner-city children as well as the programs which we conduct for the 154,000 children who go to our schools.

That figure is about 80 percent of the average expenditure for education in suburban Cleveland. That means taking into account all of the extra Federal help which we are now receiving. We are still only spending on the average 80 percent of what the districts that surround Cleveland are spending.

Now it is no wonder that there is a steady migration out of Cleveland of middle-class families, both white and Negro, to the suburbs.

It is a fact that the tax rate in Cleveland, the total tax rate for all purposes, is among the highest in the county in which we live. There are a few suburban districts with a higher total rate, but most of the suburban districts have a substantially lower total tax rate than we in Cleveland do.

Nevertheless, they can provide education which on the average is 20 percent more costly and probably in many respects therefore better than we are able to provide in the city of Cleveland. The reason for this is that the costs of municipal government in the city of Cleveland are much heavier than they are in suburbia.

In Ohio as a whole approximately 66 percent of all local taxes go for schools, but in the big cities of Ohio less than 50 percent of the taxes go for schools. There are many figures available to show that the cost of police protection, fire protection, and all the other government services associated with big cities are much heavier than in areas of smaller population.

This results in the basic fiscal problem of big cities, which is that, although our tax effort is high, our tax yield for education is low.

Now the second important fact is that we are dependent entirely upon the voters for our money. This is a characteristic of most major cities in this country, not all. It is an important reason why New York City has quite different problems than many of the other major cities do, because New York is what is known as a fiscally dependent school district; the schools get their money from the regular city budget, but in Cleveland and in Pittsburgh, and in Chicago, and in most of the major cities of the country school money is voted every few years by the voters.

I am happy to say that in Cleveland the voters are supporting education. Last fall we asked the voters to approve a 120-percent increase, more than doubling the size of the bonded indebtedness of the Cleveland school district, and they approved it by a 2-to-1 majority.

At the same election we asked them to increase by 20 percent the taxes for the operating expenditures of the Cleveland schools, and they approved that by the same 2-to-1 majority.