

Now the voters of Cleveland have an important characteristic of which we must be aware. About 65 percent of the voters of Cleveland are white, about 35 percent of the voters of Cleveland are Negro. This is a markedly different ratio than the ratio of the children in the Cleveland school system. About 53 percent of the children in the Cleveland school system are Negro and about 47 percent are white.

Similar figures are applicable in all of the major cities of the United States. A majority of the voters are white and a majority, or a growing number which soon will be a majority, of the children in the public school system, which depend upon voter approval for its money are Negro.

As you are all aware, there were serious riots in Cleveland last summer. These riots preceded the election at which we were, as successful as we were, by not more than 2 or 3 months. There are likely to be riots in Cleveland again this summer, perhaps next summer. The Cleveland Board of Education is therefore in the position of going to the voters for the additional money we need in a context in which most of the money is spent for the Negro children, some of whose families and some of the people in whose neighborhoods are the people who are causing the disturbances in the streets, and I emphasize the word "some," because of course most of the Negro families in the City of Cleveland are law-abiding citizens who are the ones most hurt by rioting and disorder in the streets.

Now in this context I put to the committee the question: How should compensatory education be financed in the big cities of the United States? Is it reasonable to suppose that a school district, such as the Cleveland school district, which needs to increase its operating expenditures by 20 percent just to get up to the average in suburban Cleveland can also persuade the voters to provide the money that is required for compensatory education?

Can we persuade a voting group, a majority of whom are white: are concerned about the growth of the ghetto; are people who came to this country and made their own way the hard way up the economic ladder before the Federal Government thought it was a part of its business to help people up the economic ladder—can we expect such people to provide substantial amounts of money for compensatory education for the children of Negro families, many of whom have moved to Cleveland recently from the South, some of whom are causing the disorders in the streets?

I think the answer to that question is apparent in the voting results.

In Cleveland one of the reasons we are successful in persuading the voters to support the schools is because we take the position that it is our responsibility in Cleveland to provide quality education for every child and we do not say to the voters, We want you to provide a lot of extra money which we are going to spend in Central and in Glenville and the other troubled parts of Cleveland. In fact, we do spend some extra money there because in providing quality education for every child we recognize that there are greater educational needs in the inner city and we provide them, but our basic theme is; we are providing basic quality education for every child and that is what we want the citizens of Cleveland to support and that is what they do support by a 2-to-1 vote.