

sioner stated that another 400 districts that had made progress would be scheduled for review during the school year.

These 400 districts were urged to take steps on their own to improve the extent of student and faculty desegregation.

The largest number of districts between 700 and 800 were notified that their performance was adequate and no review of their plans would be undertaken.

The committee should know that generally the 250 school districts that were first reviewed, those with the poorest performance, had no student desegregation or less than 2 percent of the Negro students in formerly white schools and no faculty desegregation.

In addition many districts had denied choices of the Negro students to attend the white schools, they had discouraged Negro students from choosing a white school, parents had been intimidated, the school district had failed to make efforts to prepare the community for desegregation and had not followed the guideline vital to its success.

Recently the Department administrative hearings parents testified of night riders shooting into their homes, that insurance on their homes was canceled for no apparent reason after they enrolled in white schools and their children as well as themselves had been harassed and threatened. They spoke of losing their jobs, their credit, and sometimes their homes when they chose a white school.

The transcript of these hearings gives a more vivid picture of community attitudes than anything I might say. During field review where progress is not sufficient to carry out the efforts of title VI, renewed efforts, voluntary efforts, implicit in this duty, in this responsibility is a duty to make suggestions and recommendations to school districts of steps that they might take in order to proceed with school desegregation and the effort is made to tailor the suggestions and recommendations to meet the problems of each particular district.

For example, where a district must bus its white or Negro students on the basis of their work to a neighboring school district to be educated, it would be recommended that this practice cease and all the children be educated in their home district.

The courts have required districts to take such action even prior to the Supreme Court's decision of 1954. Where districts are still operating small and adequate segregated schools for Negroes, it has been recommended that these schools be closed and that the students and teachers be reassigned on a nonracial basis.

The courts have simply required the closing of small inadequate Negro schools. We would not be carrying out the spirit of title VI if we did not suggest to school districts what steps they could take to meet their obligations. Districts are urged to come up with their own plans if all recommendations appear inappropriate to them.

Over 600 desegregation plans have been reviewed for the current school year. As of now approximately 100 of these plans have been found ineffective to eliminate the dual school system. In approximately one-fourth of these districts there is absolutely no desegregation of any description. All students and faculty continue to attend schools traditionally serving their race.

Recommendations of the staff were rejected by these districts which also refused to submit alternative desegregation plans. The Depart-