Chairman PERKINS. Without objection it is so ordered.
(The document referred to follows:)

[Atlanta Constitution, March 10, 1967]

SCHOOLS GET A YEAR'S GRACE

While remaining firm, the U.S. Office of Education is embarking on a more conciliatory approach to encourage desegregation of lagging Georgia schools. For one thing, letters to state departments of education are in the works, inviting the states to assume more responsibilities in effecting the guidelines. Federal funds will be offered to finance increased state activity.

Of more immediate significance, however, will be a notification that one Georgia county is about to get from Washington. This decision, which has already been made, will signal a major adjustment in fund cutoff policy by the Office of Education.

The Georgia county in question still has segregated schools. New federal funds have been withheld from it during the current school year, pending a permanent fund cutoff hearing scheduled to be held shortly. Many Georgia counties are in this shape, so they will be interested to know what is about to happen.

In return for a firm commitment volunteered by the county school system that it will undertake significant desegregation beginning next September, the Office of Education is postponing the fund cutoff hearing until next September, and is additionally releasing to the schools all of the federal funds that have been withheld from them this year.

In short, a school system that has been cited as not obeying the law up to now, but which decides to comply during the next school year, may retrieve the current year's funds it has lost and delay its fund cutoff hearing by simply spelling out its intentions for the future.

The intentions will have to be spelled out; the Office of Education is not accepting vague promises. The county whose funds are about to be restored laid down a detailed plan for student and faculty desegregation, affecting some 10 per cent of its Negro students.

But the significance of the new federal decision lies in its show of conciliation. Counties that have done nothing to comply with the guidelines heretofore are not to be consigned ruthlessly to the outer darkness; if they want to come back into the light they'll be welcomed and helped to catch up with the other school systems, with their past lag written off.

The emphasis has thus been turned more decisively to encouraging compliance rather than terminating funds. Those reluctant schools that choose to do that which they have not yet done are offered financial forgiveness for their past omissions.

Justice department lawsuits impend for the outright defiant, of course, so that ultimately they will be desegregated by court order if not by the Office of Education's new encouragement.

But the new policy of conciliation in place of punishment offers a way out of the woods for those Georgia school systems wishing to take it.

Mr. LIBASSI. Thus far 50 districts which were inadequate last year or this year and had to be cited for fund termination of hearings have come into compliance. In other words, Mr. Chairman, where we had notified these districts for hearing they have taken action even after they were notified for hearing and after we terminated the hearing process.

Many other districts which would be cited for hearings took additional corrective measurements and thus came into compliance and voluntarily. Every effort will be continued to be made to encourage districts to follow this course of action. Thus far there are only 35 school districts in the entire United States that have had final orders terminating Federal funds issued against them.

While we must face the fact that 88 percent of the Negro children in 11 Southern States continue to attend schools whose students are