

The courts have required districts to take such action even prior to the Supreme Court decision in 1954.

Where districts are still operating small, inadequate, segregated schools for Negroes, it has been recommended that these schools be closed and that the students and teachers be assigned on a nonracial basis. The courts have similarly 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 our 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 Department was left with no alternative but to offer these districts an opportunity for hearing.

In many other communities throughout the South, school officials and local community leaders have made substantial progress toward the elimination of dual school systems.

Despite the difficulties connected with the operation of free choice plans, there are instances where they have worked effectively to desegregate schools. The key to success is the willingness of local school officials and opinion leaders to develop an atmosphere which will lead to significant progress toward establishing a single school system for all children.

In addition to the seven or eight hundred districts that were advised last fall that they had made satisfactory progress and were in compliance with Title VI, other districts whose performance was inadequate have negotiated additional desegregation steps which brought them into compliance.

For instance, one Georgia district has operated two segregated schools, one for Negro students with Negro teachers, the other for white students with white teachers. However, this district has now agreed to transfer the entire Negro eighth grade class to the white school in September 1967 and to assign three full-time teachers across racial lines for the 1967-68 season. As a result, 10 percent of the Negro students in the district will be attending desegregated schools next year.

This case was recently the subject of a news column in the *Atlanta Constitution* and, with the permission of the Chairman, I would like to submit a copy of it to be inserted in the record at this point.

Thus far, 50 districts which had made inadequate progress last year or this year and had to be cited for fund termination hearings have since come into compliance. Many other districts that would have been cited for hearings took additional corrective measures and thus came into compliance voluntarily. Every effort will continue to be made to encourage districts to follow this course of action.

While we must face the fact that 88 percent of the Negro children in 11 Southern States continue to attend schools whose student bodies are all, or nearly all Negro, it is nevertheless the fact that since the adoption and implementation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the number of Negro students attending desegregated schools has increased markedly. In 1964 it was 2.25 percent, in 1965, 6 percent, and in September 1966, 12 percent. The progress in the six Border States is even more impressive with the dual school system nearly abolished in some. In addition, more than half of the districts of the South have made at least a start in faculty desegregation.

The object of the Department's civil rights activity is not the termination of Federal funds. Our goal is to assure that no person in the United States be excluded, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, from participation in or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

Chairman PERKINS. It has been called to my attention by the minority that it was contemplated from the commencement of the hearings that we would conclude the hearings on this day.