

do in the way of legislation and it is imperative that what we develop is tailored to meet these points. This seems to me to be pertinent to potential legislation.

Mr. FORD. I hope you are keeping in mind in your discussion that this school board is appointed by the mayor of the city of New York and is not answerable to the people of New York directly. I think you will find across the country there are significant differences as to the independence or the responsiveness of boards.

Appointed boards tend to differ from the school boards which have to be reelected with public approval of their actions.

Mr. DELLENBACK. This is an interesting observation. It was not a factor of which I was aware. Is the superintendent of schools of New York City elected or appointed?

Mrs. BENJAMIN. He is an appointee of the board of education.

Mr. DELLENBACK. I gather from your series of comments the mayor elected by the citizens appoints the individual members of the board. The board then chooses their superintendent and the superintendent is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the school.

Mr. SCHEUER. I might say, under the law of the State of New York, the board of education and the superintendent are responsible not to the mayor who appoints the members of the board but to the State commissioner of education—so the mayor is in the somewhat anomalous position of appointing the members of the board who appoint the superintendent; but in actual point of fact he has very little direct control over educational policies and programs.

Ultimately, the responsibility over New York City education is vested in the State commissioner of education. Dr. Bowman, you probably know more about this than I do.

Mrs. BOWMAN. That is quite true but I wanted to add one other point which I think is significant here. Because of protests about the quality of the board of education appointed by the mayor the system was evolved a few years ago whereby the mayor asked for recommendations for board membership from a panel of citizens and agreed to take someone from that panel. However, asked for a number of recommendations so that he would have choice within the group recommended.

This was an attempt, even within the procedures which have been outlined, to get a little closer to the people.

Mr. FORD. I might make this facetious observation that some of the former proponents of District home rule—and I classify myself on this—might want to take on an amendment to the next home rule bill so that you can have an elected school board in New York, too.

Mr. DELLENBACK. How many years does a member of the school board serve?

Mrs. BENJAMIN. Seven years.

Mr. DELLENBACK. Removable only for cause and not at the will of the mayor?

Mrs. BENJAMIN. This is right.

Mr. DELLENBACK. Does the State department of education have the authority to remove any such member, since the board is responsible to the State department?

Mrs. BOWMAN. I should know specifically but it is my impression that the department of education may upon charges remove the board and in fact at the time that I referred to when a panel was appointed