

Mr. SCHERLE. This is a rumor you have heard but no foundation?

Mr. LIBASSI. No; there was considerable evidence of segregation in Chicago.

Mr. SCHERLE. What are you doing for the gifted child?

Mr. LIBASSI. There are other programs of the Office of Education which I am not competent to testify to.

Mr. SCHERLE. Aren't you with the Office of Education?

Mr. LIBASSI. I am the Special Assistant to the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare for Civil Rights. I was asked to testify on the Department's handling of civil rights policies and the operation of these policies particularly.

Mr. SCHERLE. Who handles your programs for the gifted children?

Mr. LIBASSI. Let me see if I can ask someone from the Office of Education?

Mr. CAREY. Would my colleague yield?

Mr. SCHERLE. Surely.

Mr. CAREY. I would like to respond not on the basis of complete information but briefly, there are no gifted children programs in the Office of Education. There are programs for the handicapped children, exceptional children in that terminology and recently the new Bureau for the Handicapped was set up by a bill which passed this committee last year to gather all of the special education programs under one roof down there.

Many of our strong recommendations in this regard were that we look into the different levels of achievement and find out what is being done with Federal programs to sort out the children who have both functions that prevent them from getting a full education and also there are those who are not being served.

Those you call gifted children were not served by the so-called equal education programs. So this is a beginning field and we have not caught up with it. The States as you realize have a number of programs in this field but there is no Federal program for gifted children now on the books.

Mr. SCHERLE. Thank you, Mr. Carey.

There is no one who is any more concerned about the disadvantaged and the uneducated and the need for it. Because in my humble opinion there is nothing that is more important than education.

I think it would be criminal for us as Congressmen or anyone in the field of education not to give every opportunity to the children today to compete in this competitive world, to give them the dignity, the opportunity and the pride to compete so they can become self-sustaining but I do think there are a lot of questions that should be answered in the field of education as to whether or not they are all being treated with the same help perhaps disadvantaged, handicapped, and so on and so forth.

I have one last question. Going back to the transportation of pupils, what would you do in the Washington area here to try to set up a 50-percent attendance of children, considering the margins you have at the present time?

Mr. LIBASSI. I don't believe that it is possible in the city of Washington because of the organization of the District to achieve a 50 percent or any other kind of percentage of attendance in the District schools.