

There is no contribution since the appropriations act was signed by the President; there is no contribution from any other program to fund the Department's civil rights activity.

Mr. BURTON. Am I correct in assuming a good part of your work is providing the technical know-how to school districts that seek to comply?

Is that a fair portion of your responsibility or is by far the overwhelming portion of your work that of enforcement?

Mr. LIBASSI. You are right. Most of the staff is devoted to the review of the performance of school districts, hospitals, and so forth, and providing technical assistance, advice, and counsel as to how the recipient of Federal funds can desegregate the facility and comply with the title VI.

The General Counsel Office is the enforcement unit in HEW and that is authorized at 39 positions out of the 278. So the funds termination part of the program is much smaller.

The staff that is engaged in providing a technical assistance, if the school district refuses the technical assistance, then the case has to proceed to the fund cutoff and the same staff would be asked to testify at a hearing to provide information on their refusal to desegregate.

I don't want to draw a neat, clear line that just the 39 people in the general counsel's office have anything to do with fund determinations.

The rest of the staff is doing all of the voluntary compliance which if successful avoids the cutoff but if it is not successful then the case moves to the general counsel's office for the actual hearing to terminate the funds.

Mr. Bell just said even the general counsel's office engages in negotiations and severance cases if possible even after they have been cited for a hearing.

Mr. BURTON. What are the prospects in the next decade to eliminate segregation in the grade schools and junior high schools of this country in the large cities?

Is it rather dismal at best? Are we not really confronted with the fact that if we do all of this we can with the available tools we will just show a little retrogression?

Mr. LIBASSI. Let me say that we could do a great deal in 10 years to reduce racial segregation in the public schools in the United States.

We could do a great, great deal. There is no doubt in my mind there is ample room in both the North and the South for the reduction of racial concentrations in public schools.

It does take awhile and it does take commitment and it also takes money. With those I believe we could. There are obvious situations such as large, large metropolitan areas where there are extensive racial concentrations in the cities as a whole.

I understand there are about five cities now where school populations are more than 50 percent nonwhite. In those cities it will be necessary for the cities in the surrounding communities to develop some kind of new educational system which will both improve the quality of education and also afford a greater opportunity for a desegregated education.

Mr. BURTON. You have not answered my question at all. In your very large cities where you have ever increasing numbers of school-