

ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION AMENDMENTS 1605

(The following material was submitted by Mr. Libassi:)

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE,
Washington, D.C.

HON. CARL PERKINS,
Chairman, House Education and Labor Committee, House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: When representatives of the Department appeared before your Committee on March 18th and 20th, there were several requests from members of the Committee for additional information.

Enclosed you will find a brown folder which is a "kit" of the principal documents relating to the enforcement of Title VI with respect to school desegregation. Included in the kit is the testimony by Commissioner Howe before other Congressional Committees, pertinent court decisions, memoranda prepared by Commissioner Howe to Chief State School Officers on this issue, and HEW and Department of Justice legal memoranda and pronouncements on the legality of the guideline requirements for school desegregation.

Also included are specific items requested by the Committee:

1. List of complaints from September 1st through March 22nd, as requested by Congressman Steiger.
2. The request for information on the extent of desegregation for preschool programs funded under Title I as compared to Headstart programs funded by the Office of Economic Opportunity. As you know, the Office of Education must rely on State Education Agencies for information on Title I programs and these latter agencies do not keep the kind of records that would provide us with the information requested by the Committee. However, I have included a memo from Mr. Louis J. McGuinness to Miss Carol Herzman, both of the Office of Education Title I ESEA Section which does list, by State, the number of preschool programs conducted with Title I funds; however, no indication of the extent of desegregation is available. We have asked the Office of Economic Opportunity for a list of Headstart programs and an indication of the extent to which these programs are desegregated, if that information is available.
3. The Committee asked for studies on the impact of desegregation on education generally. As we indicated when we were before the Committee, few studies have been made in this area. I am, however, passing on to the Committee the recent Commission on Civil Rights report on Racial Isolation and the Title IV report on Equality of Educational Opportunity, prepared by the Office of Education, which might be helpful.
4. Information on the amount of funds available for the administration of Title VI for school desegregation; and, the number of professional staff members assigned in this area. Memo covering this item is included.
5. Statistics showing the number of white children in the public schools by State. The Statistical Summary for 1966-67 prepared by the Southern Education Reporting Service is the best source for this information, a copy is included.

The Committee expressed interest in hearing about school districts that have taken steps to comply with the desegregation requirements of Title VI. I have enclosed some brief summaries of districts that have moved effectively in this area. You will note that they are labeled "success stories".

If there are other items of specific information that will be helpful to the Committee, we will be happy to make every effort to obtain it.

Sincerely,

F. PETER LIBASSI,
Special Assistant to the Secretary for Civil Rights.

ESTIMATED PERCENTAGE OF NONWHITES (OR NEGROES) AND WHITES (OR OTHERS)
ENROLLED IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS, BY KINDERGARTEN, ELEMENTARY, AND SECONDARY
LEVEL, IN 21 LARGE CITIES: 1960 AND CURRENTLY

The estimates in the table attached are selected to display the comparison between the 1960 and the current situation in large cities with respect to the proportion of the nonwhite and white pupils enrolled in public schools. Data are