

She is concerned with the fact that this educational system to which Mrs. Green refers, perhaps with good reason, about higher educational standards is not doing the job in Los Angeles. I cannot help but believe that our school system is just as good as any of the districts in Oregon, but we have a school district which although it is an excellent one from a middle class approach, is not doing the job in slum ghettos.

This person who is in Washington now, Mrs. Wright, who made a trip at great expense, at a great sacrifice, is representing mothers who are protesting today to the Office of Education that the ordinary school district is resisting any change and that their children in these schools with these very high educational standards are not being taught, with the result that they are dropping out, they are losing interest.

The schoolteachers with these higher educational standards are trying to get out of the slum ghettos. Each day when the bell rings at the end of the day they get into their automobiles and almost run over the children trying to get out of the district.

They have an idea that the kids that come from culturally deprived homes cannot learn and regardless of what they say the youngsters are not being taught anything and they are not getting good jobs because they are not getting the education.

It seems to me we can talk about building up educational standards but what we are talking about is building up these standards for middle class schools, not for the kids in the slum ghettos. I think it should be clearly understood while we are not opposed to the strengthening of the school system and certainly are hoping to build higher educational standards, we also have to try to innovate some new ideas for some of these school districts including my own.

They are not doing the job in the slum ghettos. If you want to relate this to some of the disorders, certainly I think there is the relationship. It is just one of the many causes. Parents are so frustrated that they don't know what to do.

This mother spoke to me last night. She said, "I have an 8-year-old child who is with me. This child is not reading as well as a 5-year-old child."

She said she had to change the child to many schools. She said she is representing other parents who are trying to improve things in our district so their children will learn and get better jobs and so they won't participate in any kind of disorder.

I think some of us should face this challenge and start talking about higher educational standards because children are not being taught in some of the school districts.

Chairman PERKINS. Would you like to comment, Dr. Flemming?

Dr. FLEMMING. Obviously, from the comment I made earlier, I am in agreement with this approach. I think this is one of the great things about bringing a new agency into being now and then.

It can develop new ideas and put them into effect.

Congressman Gibbons addressed a question to me during the course of my testimony.

I said I would be happy to respond to it at the conclusion of my testimony.

If you would like, I would be happy to respond.