

Do they consider that, if they transferred education, the education of the Indian could be improved, too?

Mr. COHEN. I believe that their position is that they look upon this as the Federal Government withdrawing from its financial responsibility for the total support of Indian activities. In other words, they

Mr. COHEN. Well, I would hope that that ~~could be accomplished~~ them. I think it would require some time. I would have to add that there is one big philosophical question that has never been totally reconciled in the educational field, and that is whether it is desired that there be complete integration of the Indians into the cultural life of the white man or the maintenance of a kind of separation of their activities in separate schools. And there is a very strong difference of opinion on that matter, about how you regard the future of the American Indians, and I think perhaps that element in the difference of opinion is a factor for not getting a complete agreement.

Senator RIBICOFF. What do the Indians want?

Do they want their separate schools, or do they want to be integrated into the overall school system?

Mr. COHEN. Miss George has been working with the Indian groups, and she might be able to tell you what their view is. I am not certain.

DESIRE FOR INTEGRATION IS INCREASING AMONG INDIANS

Miss GEORGE. One of the problems about the segregation aspect is the fact that Indian children attending Federal schools usually reside in isolated areas, so that under any jurisdiction they would not be in best of opportunities. Do you think ~~that~~ legislation would be policies that puts education in the Department of the Interior?

REPORT STRESSES IMPROVEMENT OF INDIAN EDUCATION

Mr. COHEN. I would say, Senator, at least from this report that we made, that quality education for the American Indian has not yet been achieved, and I think that there is a lot more that can and should be done to improve education for the Indians.

Senator RIBICOFF. Well, what does that report recommend?