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October 23, 1974

SUBJECT:

WEST VIRGINIA DELEGATION
TALKS WITH WHITE HOUSE
OFFICIALS ON OFFENSIVE TEXTBOOKS

On Monday, a group of concerned citizens from West Virginia, including parents, clergy, etc., came to the White House and met with Mr. Roger Semerad, Staff Assistant, to express their concern about the overriding emphasis in elementary textbooks on violence, the negative approach to our social institutions, including the family, religion, race, and the negative approach toward America. They feel that this introduces a very negative impact on young students at a very early age in their elementary schools.

Who did the West Virginia delegation meet with and what was the Administration's reaction?

GUIDANCE: The delegation met with Mr. Roger Semerad, Staff Assistant. He listened to their presentation and reviewed the actual offensive material that concerned them, including textbooks, supplemental readings and tapes, the teacher's manual that was prepared by the textbook publisher. I understand that Mr. Semerad was surprised at some of the material in these books and tapes, and is in the process of preparing a report to the President.

Did this group meet with anyone else in the Administration?

GUIDANCE: It is my understanding that the group also met with the Commissioner of Education, Dr. Ted Bell.

JGC