

Anti-Busing Bill

BY ROBERT E. SEGAL

A double whammy. That's what a number of Senators have won in the Washington anti-civil rights sweepstakes. They did it by pushing through the most stringent anti-busing bill in the nation's history. How did they score twice? First, by ending the use of buses as one of the methods for desegregating the public schools; second, by handcuffing the Supreme Court. Only a defeat for the Senate's Helms-Johnston anti-busing bill in the House will slow up this mad rush to undermine the power of the judiciary. And even if the lawmakers lose eventually on the busing restraint campaign, you may be sure they will be back with efforts to try to cancel out the Supreme Court's jurisdiction on such volatile issues as abortion and prayers in the public schools.

Regardless of how you feel about the use of busing to attempt to abide by the 1954 Supreme Court decision on segregation, you may wish to give heed to the warning of Archibald Cox, former U.S. Solicitor General: "Never before in my entire career have I been as concerned as I am right now about the radical and unprincipled attacks being made in Congress on our Constitution and our Supreme Court."

It is noteworthy that Senator Helms and his allies did not aim to kill all school busing. That would have been an egregious error. For today, some 55% of all school children get to the schoolhouse doors by bus. Some go to regional public schools, many to private schools; and many are so handicapped they must have busing. Senator Helms understands that. What he apparently doesn't comprehend is that the wisdom of the founding fathers and the experience gained in two centuries of checks-and-balances rule have proved the high value of the Constitution's delegation of authority.

In Boston, where these observations are set down, the court-mandated school busing mechanism to achieve desegregation has produced one of the most bitter inter-racial situations in the country. Buses have been stoned, weapons have been carried into classrooms, families have been split in debates over the issue, political machinations and corruption have cast dark shadows over the school committee. And at least a portion of the racial violent crime record in various sections of the city appears motivated by quarrels over busing.

Nearly 20 years ago, the late Roy Wilkins, brilliant leader of the NAACP, predicted in despair that 100 years would elapse before school integration would be an established fact. In sadness, Wilkins' successor, D. Benjamin L. Hooks, has said: "Boston has been looked on as a citadel of civil and human liberties; but it is

no longer seen as a mecca of civil rights." Today, Boston, with a non-white total population of 30% has a non-white public school population of 66%. In the eight years of court-ordered busing for desegregation purposes, public school enrollment has dropped 40,000.

Hence, the inevitable has come: a recent poll indicates that 74% of all black parents surveyed see little or no chance to win integration via busing. They would, if given the choice, opt for the "Freedom of Choice Assignment Plan." They are weary of the fight to achieve racial balance in the public schools; they are determined to get quality education for their youngsters.

While the shameful record of racial bias characterizing the school committees of a few years back is too deeply etched in the history of Boston's once proud public educational system to be erased, it is not too late for renewal of an effort to eradicate the roots of one cause of segregation. That is to fight with fresh vigor to crush the evil of housing discrimination.

For the thoughtful students of the school problem, it became evident years ago that de facto housing segregation was the father and the grandfather of public school segregation. There is the true battleground. And only a high resolve on the part of those who believe in equality of opportunity, together with a change in attitude of those who cling to their race prejudice can achieve the dawning of a new day of understanding.

POLES RELEASE MAN WHO HELPED JEWS

PARIS (WNS) -- Polish authorities have released Wladyslaw Bartoszewski, a Catholic academician who aided Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto uprising in 1943, and was imprisoned and held without charges under martial law earlier this year. His release was reported here by Stefar Grayek who just returned from a 10-day visit to Poland where he participated in the preparations for next year's 40th anniversary commemoration of the Ghetto uprising and conferred with Polish

leaders. Only recently, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith in New York had asked the Polish government to free Bartoszewski who is a professor of history at the Catholic University in Lublin.

ARGENTINE PRISONERS FREED

NEW YORK (WNS) -- The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith announced that three Argentine political prisoners whose freedom it sought for years have been paroled and are out of jail.

Rabbi Morton Rosenthal, ADL's Latin American Affairs director, said that he was informed by the Argentine Embassy in Washington of the release of Mario Jaime Zareceansky, Claudia Ines Kon and Magdalena Romanuk. According to the Embassy, their status was changed to "supervised liberty" -- meaning that their movement is still restricted but that they are no longer in jail.

A 38-year-old attorney, Zareceansky had been in custody for five years. Miss Kon, a medical student, had been detained since 1978 and Mrs. Romanuk

was imprisoned in 1976. The three cases have been pursued over the last few years by ADL's Argentine Prisoner Project, headed by Rosenthal. By means of publicity and representations to governmental authorities, the Prisoner Project seeks to obtain the release of people held without charges under the military junta's National Executive Power (PEN) and to locate those who have disappeared.



THE PRINTER
Jack Eichelman
919 East Ogden
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
(702) 382-8860

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PLO-RED BRIGADE LINKED

ROME (WNS) -- Italian authorities have been provided with detailed information of Palestine Liberation Organization collaboration with the Red Brigade in Italy that include extensive weapons supplies. The information was conveyed to authorities by Antonio Savasta who is on trial for the murder of Premier Aldo Moro and other criminal acts.

According to Savasta, the PLO delivers arms to the Red Brigade for their own use and to be stored for PLO terrorist acts on Italian soil. He said a weapons shipment handed over in Cyprus included ground-to-air missiles, machine guns and bombs of various types.

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