

Editorial COMMENTS

They're Out To Kill School Desegregation!

School desegregation is under attack in many parts of Congress.

The latest move to use the furor over busing as a means of blocking further integration of the public schools is now underway in the House Education and Labor Committee. There, members are considering a bill the President wants. Under the guise of setting "guidelines" for courts and federal agencies to follow in school desegregation cases, the kids in the first six grades; put new restrictions on the remedies courts can order; and make it possible to reopen school cases already decided. (An analysis of this bill, H. R. 13915, is included with this MEMO.)

Meanwhile, the House Rules Committee has a "stop integration" program of its own. As we warned in our last MEMO, the Committee's chairman, Rep. William Colmer (D., Miss.) has already announced that when his committee meets again, he will try and take away from the House Judiciary Committee another of the President's bills - one that would set a moratorium on further busing until Congress enacts desegregation guidelines. Colmer may even try to take the Constitutional amendment on busing away from the Judiciary. And Rules is scheduled to meet this coming Tuesday, August 1!

Last week two Senators, David Gambrell (D., Ga.) and Robert Griffin (R., Mich.) sought to add an antibusing amendment to the minimum wage bill when it was before the Senate. Their amendment was tabled, 53-to-38.

PLAYING POLITICS WITH RIGHTS

The name of this game is Politicking, 1972. President Nixon took the lead by making it abundantly clear that he intends to use busing as a major campaign issue. The others are following him. Both Gambrell and Griffin are up for reelection this year. And so is every member of the House. You can expect more bills like the one before House Education and Labor; more high-handed tactics by House Rules; more discharge petitions; more anti-busing amendments in every imaginable bill that comes before the Senate - unless. Unless we all start hollering STOP at the top of our lungs. That this is an election year is a fact that cuts both ways. Members are using busing as an issue because they hope to ride to victory on it. What they HAVE NOT heard are the voices of those Americans who feel it is outrageous for members of Congress to play politics with our children, our schools, our courts and our constitutional rights.

WHAT YOU MUST DO

Wire, Write. To members of the House Education and Labor Committee, first, but to House and Senate members after that. Tell them one thing: to vote against all anti-busing bills and all anti-busing amendments. Get your friends to write. Get your organization to issue resolutions to Congress. Unless we act and act at once, unless we bury them under an avalanche of mail, we can lose on this issue. And the damage done will be to more than school desegregation; these political maneuvers threaten to undermine the civil rights progress of the past two decades. SO PLEASE GET BUSY.

Members of the House Education and Labor Committee:

DEMOCRATS-Representatives Perkins (Ky.), Chairman; Green (Oregon); Thompson (N.J.); Dent (Pa.); Pucinski (Ill.); Mink (Hawaii); Ford (Mich.); Daniels (N.J.); Brademas (Ind.); O'Hara (Mich.); Hawkins (Calif.); Schuer (N.Y.); Meeds (Wash.); Burton (Calif.); Gaydos (Pa.); Clay 9mo.; Chisholm (N.Y.); Biaggi (N.Y.); Grasso (Conn.); Hicks (Mass.); Mazzoli (Ky.); and Badillo (N.Y.).

REPUBLICANS-Representatives Quie (Minn.); Ashbrook (Ohio); Bell (Calif.); Erlenborn (Ill.); Dellenback (Oreg.); Esch (Mich.); Eshleman (Pa.); Steiger (Wis.); Landgrebe (Ind.); Hansen (Idaho); Ruth (N.Car.); Forsythe (N.J.); Veysey (Calif.); Kemp (N.Y.); Peyser (N.Y.); and Carlson (Ill.).

Write to them c/o the Capitol, House of Representatives, Washington, D. C. 20515

Add These To Your List Of Violence, Mr. President



SUPPORT THE FARAH STRIKE

By Bayard Rustin

Each movement for social justice and civil rights has its vanguards: activists and workers who, by dint of personal sacrifice and selfless commitment open the doors to equality so that thousands of others may enter. More often than not the--vanguard is comprised of those common people--workers, their wives, the poor--who make up for their lack of schooling with an extraordinary courage, born of a lifetime of deprivation and exploitation.

Many of the crucial civil rights campaigns could not have been won had it not been for the fortitude and resolution of simple church women who fiercely believed in the cause for which they fought, and just as earnestly adhered to the practice of non-violence. And the job of organizing the south's poverty-stricken workers, so often a discouraging and embittering experience, has been made less arduous because of the awe-inspiring persistence of Memphis sanitationmen and hospital workers in Charleston.

Some 3,000 meagerly paid, under-educated workers are playing just such a vanguard role in the summer heat of Texas and New Mexico. For the past three months they have struck the Farah Manufacturing Co., one of the nation's largest makers of men's pants, in an effort to achieve the most elemental right of working people--the right to representation by a union without intimidation and coercion.

The strike was triggered by the arbitrary dismissal of workers active in the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union. But the Farah workers are confronted by far more than an intractable and hostile management. Because they are Mexican-American, they face prejudice differing little in degree from the prejudice black people experienced and continue to experience on the deep south. And because of the unyielding anti-labor bias which permeates southwest law and custom, they must also deal with the active opposition of law enforcement and political officials.

Thus Farah sought and was able to obtain a court order placing unusually harsh restrictions on the right to picket. And despite picketing that was peaceful and orderly, some 600 strikers have been arrested, at times in their

homes during the night. Local judges set bail at levels considerably higher than for those arrested for trivial offenses: the strikers were, in effect, treated as dangerous radicals rather than as workers seeking no more than basic economic and social justice.

I singled out the Farah strikers as representatives of a social vanguard because they symbolize the plight of millions of exploited factory workers in our southern and southwestern states and in those non-south areas where anti-labor sentiment persists.

Should the strike succeed, it would bring an awakening of hope for those who labor in frustration in the anonymous mills and factories throughout the nation. Its failure would strengthen the resolve of the most reactionary anti-worker forces in society: those who would cripple the power of organized labor while themselves preying on society's most powerless.

The Farah strike has won broad support from liberals and organized labor. A citizens committee to help ensure justice for the Farah workers, headed by Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson, has been formed and a nationwide boycott against Farah products has been launched.

The strike deserves the unflinching support (see FARAH WORKERS, page 10)

LAS VEGAS Voice

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER (Published every Thursday) DEDICATED to the INTERESTS and ASPIRATIONS for a BETTER LIFE for NEGRO CITIZENS of the STATE of NEVADA

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900 West Bonanza Road, Lobby Suite (Moulin
Rouge Hotel) Las Vegas, Nevada 89106 Telephone 648-2615

ADVERTISING RATES FURNISHED UPON REQUEST

Price per copy - 15¢ * One year - 7.50 * Two years - 12.50
(Application for 2nd Class Mailing Permit pending at Las Vegas, Nevada)