



Supreme Court

Busing upheld to achieve integration

WASHINGTON—The Supreme Court issued four major decisions Monday upholding busing to achieve school integration and establishing up-to-date new guidelines for the courts to follow. The decision were unanimous. All were written by Chief Justice Warren E. Burger.

The key opinion came in a North Carolina case where the state had challenged a federal district judge's order that busing be increased in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg area to bring about racially balanced schools.

Burger said transfers were an integral part of many desegregation plans and "to be effective such a transfer arrangement must grant the transferring student free transportation."

The court upheld zone pairings and a certain amount of deliberately imposed "racial balance" if needed to eliminate "all vestiges of state-imposed segregation."

"School authorities have wide discretion in formulating school policy," Burger wrote, "and, as a matter of educational policy school authorities may well conclude that some kind of racial balance in the schools is desirable quite apart from any constitutional requirements."

"However," Burger said, "if a state-imposed limitation on a school authority's discretion operates to inhibit or obstruct the operation of a unitary school system or impede the disestablishing of a dual school system, it must fall."

"State policy must give way when it operates to hinder vindication of federal constitutional guarantees," Burger ruled.

"That requirement, against the background of segregation, would render illusory the promise of the original school 1954 desegregation decision."

In the North Carolina opinion, the court upheld in its entirety the district

court's orders requiring the busing of 23,000 more children than had been transported the previous year. He had been reversed on busing younger pupils by the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

The opinion noted: "An objection to transportation of students may have validity when the time or distance of travel is so great as to risk either the health of the child or significantly impinge on the educational process."

District courts, it added, "must weigh the soundness of any transportation plan" in light of today's guidelines.

Besides the cases involving Charlotte-Mecklenburg and the North Carolina busing law, the court decided two cases from Georgia and Alabama.

The Georgia Supreme Court struck down on June 15 a plan by the Clarke County, Ga., board of education for cross-busing of white and black children.

Burger, reversing the state supreme court, held that the school board "as part of its affirmative duty to disestablish the dual school system, properly took into account the race of its elementary school children in drawing attendance lines."

Vets petition Congress

WASHINGTON—To shouts of "right on, brother" from antiwar protesters in combat fatigues, Sens. Mark O. Hatfield, R-Ore., and George S. McGovern, D-S.D., urged Tuesday that Congress end U.S. involvement in Indochina by Dec. 31 as unconstitutional and morally wrong.

More than 100 members of Vietnam Veterans Against The War, in the capital for a week of demonstrations, crowded into the hearing room of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which began study of eight bills all proposing to end the war.

The protestors, some of whom wore campaign ribbons on their chests, gave McGovern a standing ovation of cheers, whistles and shouts, and they hissed and booed Sen. Clifford P. Case, R-N.J., when he questioned McGovern critically.

"I submit that America will be a greater, more self-confident and more respected nation if...we exercise our constitutional responsibilities to terminate support for a war that we know is wrong," McGovern testified.

World news briefs

China to send players to U.S.

DETROIT—Communist China has accepted an invitation to send a group of table tennis players to the United States, Graham Steenhoven, president of the U.S. Table Tennis Association, announced Tuesday.

Steenhoven, who led a 15-member U.S. table tennis contingent on a tour of Red China last week, said details of the trip were not yet firm. But he said the visit would take place perhaps in the next 12 months.

"I am pleased and honored to announce that the Table Tennis Association of the Peoples Republic of Red China, through its acting President Mr. Song Chung, has graciously accepted the invitation of the U.S. Table Tennis

Association to visit the United States," Steenhoven told a news conference.

He said State Department officials in Tokyo had assured him before his contingent went to Communist China that the U.S. government would expedite visas for the Chinese group.

Israel seeking U.S. assurances

Diplomatic sources in Jerusalem said Tuesday Israel was asking the United States for guarantees that Russian and Egyptian troops would not cross the Suez Canal if Israel makes a partial withdrawal in an effort to defuse the newest Mideast crisis.

The new crisis blew up when Egypt, Syria and Libya formed an Arab Federation to consolidate their strength

against Israel and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat announced there would be no more negotiations with Israel, no abandoning of one inch of Arab territory and no relinquishing of bargaining on the Palestine question.

It began growing last week when the United States disclosed that the Soviet Union had begun supplying Egypt with new MIG23 planes said to be able to outperform the American F4 Phantom. Israeli military sources said Soviet technicians have begun building a naval base at Mersa Matruh, 170 miles west of Alexandria, Egypt.

The New York Times reported the United States is in the process of delivering 12 more F4s to Israel and is considering Tel Aviv's requests for more.

Polluter sought

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va.—The Coast Guard said Tuesday it was investigating the source of a "heavy, black oil" spill in the Atlantic Ocean that possibly could be swept ashore at this coastal resort by evening tides.

A spokesman at the 5th Coast Guard District Headquarters in nearby Portsmouth said samples of the spill, which measured one mile long by a half-mile wide, would be compared with samples from merchant marine vessels in the area to determine its source.

Mills asks minimum wage hike

WASHINGTON—Rep. Wilbur D. Mills, D-Ark., chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, opened a drive by House Democrats Tuesday to raise the hourly minimum wage from \$1.60 to \$2 for nine million workers as early as 1972.

Mills got the jump on Speaker Carl Albert by introducing legislation for the higher minimum effective Feb. 1, 1972—a year earlier than previously proposed by House Democratic leaders.

The legislation went to the House Labor Committee which opened hearings on a higher federal wage floor under the chairmanship of subcommittee Chairman John E. Dent, D-Pa., who also has

proposed a 1973 date for a \$2.00 wage.

Mills gave two reasons for proposing an earlier date. He said it would give a boost to the economy by creating more spending power and cut back on the proposed federal costs of assisting low income working families under the welfare reform bill now being written in Mills' committee.

House Democratic leaders support a bill to raise the \$1.60 wage to \$1.80 in January and to \$2.00 in 1973 for non agricultural workers. For farmworkers, the minimum would go from \$1.30 to \$1.50 on Aug. 1, 1971, and to \$1.60 on Jan. 1972 under their plan.

House approves primary bill

RALEIGH—The House Tuesday amended and then gave its overwhelming approval to a Senate bill that would make North Carolina the first southern state with a binding presidential preference primary election.

If the Senate concurs in the amendment, North Carolina will become the 18th state with a presidential popularity contest.

The bill would allow the names of at least four presidential hopefuls to be included in the May 2, 1972, primary election ballot to determine their popularity among Tar Heels. The winning candidate would receive the majority of votes from state delegates attending the national convention. The delegates would be bound to the first ballot only, then could vote as they pleased.

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