

Mr. SCHERLE. If this is an example of what you are attempting to do, does this not sort of knock your argument in the head a little bit?

Mr. LIBASSI. The only thing the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare is doing, where a school district or city operates the school system in a way which increases or maintains segregation, that would violate the Constitution, but where in a city such as the District of Columbia 80 or 90 percent of the children are Negro there is not very much that a district can do.

Mr. SCHERLE. If you feel this is the answer to Chicago and other places why would it not serve the same purpose in Washington?

Mr. LIBASSI. In the city of Chicago there were districts or resident zones around schools which could have provided for more integration than there was.

Mr. SCHERLE. But you feel that full integration of the schools is the answer to all of the problems in education?

Mr. LIBASSI. I think that the object has to be the improvement of the quality of education.

Mr. SCHERLE. But you feel you would obtain this by full integration of schools to the extent where you might even have to transport these children out of their neighborhood, past schools they now attend in an exchange to create a balance?

Mr. LIBASSI. Let me say I think every child's constitutional right to equal educational opportunity ought to be fully protected. We have many, many instances of children being put on buses, transported past schools to attend segregated schools and this was the pattern for years where Negro children were put on buses and driven right past white schools to attend all Negro schools and people thought that was a good way to have educational systems.

Mr. SCHERLE. You thought that was wrong and now you feel this is right?

Mr. LIBASSI. I feel local school officials should take whatever action in their judgment increases the educational opportunity for all children in that district and if in their judgment it means children should be transported on a bus, if that is their judgment, then I think that is what should be done.

Mr. SCHERLE. Is it your judgment or the assumption of this law, that if this is done you could create equality you are looking for in your Department?

Mr. LIBASSI. That is not the policy of the Department. The only policy of the Department is where a local school district wants to transport children because they feel the children would get a better opportunity, then the Federal Government is not opposed to getting funds to do that.

Mr. SCHERLE. You will force them to do that if you feel they are not getting the kind of education because you provide the funds to run that school.

Mr. LIBASSI. We have not in any case required that in any northern school district—

Mr. SCHERLE. What do you call the \$30 million in Chicago?

Mr. LIBASSI. We did require or suggest to the school officials in Chicago that they should put—they should bus the children. We were simply at that point trying to get information. What we have