

Rev. Lester Kinsolving's

Religion Update

If U.S. Catholic magazine is a good thermometer of public opinion, it is by no means the nation's conservatives alone who are presently rejecting in the U.S. Supreme Court's most recent decision on public school busing.

For a poll of this magazine's generally moderate or middle-of-the-road readers reveals that more than 80 per cent oppose busing, and would therefore agree with the high court's reversal of Judge Robert Marjine's attempt to consolidate the school systems of inner city Richmond, Va. with neighboring suburbs.

The U.S. Catholic readers were polled for their reaction to an essay by Editor Dan Herr of The Critic magazine, which some observers regard as having pre-empted the liberal Catholic leadership from the National Catholic Reporter.

Herr, who by no reasonable means could be regarded as a reactionary, wrote this essay entitled: "Let's Stop Busing For Integration."

A skillful milker of assorted sacred cows, Herr compares busing to prohibition.

"Another 'Noble Experiment' with objectives just as valid, methods just as idiotic, and chances of success just as infinitesimal."

Herr then went on to note:

"What should seem obvious to almost everyone is that a democracy governs by consensus. Unless a majority of fair-minded people, those who benignly occupy the center between the extremists, are willing to accept the inherent rightness of the law, the particular law will be almost universally ignored and law in general will suffer."

"It is my conviction based upon reading, listening and observing, that most people, including many black and white progressives — and almost all parents of small children — don't approve of busing."

"Neither black nor white children should be used as pawns in games their parents and local, state and national governments are playing. . . . Being thrust unwanted into a group of strange and different children, who can be cruel, may or may not damage their psyches; and may or may not risk the

chance of making them bigots."

"It is simply another form of racism to assume that although white parents may object, black parents will be delighted with the prospect of their children being bused into the land of the wild white yonder."

Herr concluded his essay by describing busing as "educational kidnapping."

New York Rep. Norman Lent credits busing with having made a "shambles of the nation's public school system."

And North Carolina's Sen. Sam Ervin notes that busing, as it has been previously ordered by the Supreme Court, is the same type of racial assignment which the Supreme Court outlawed in 1954.

Perhaps the first city in the U.S. to establish busing for integration was Berkeley, Calif. Among results:

• In short order, a coalition of black militants and white, far-left, lockstep liberals had established within the Berkeley school system both facilities and programs which are racially segregated — in excluding whites.

• All students are obliged to observe a school holiday in honor of the birthday of that industrious pimp, dope pusher, burglar and preacher of racial bigotry, the late Malcolm X.

• The Abraham Lincoln School in Berkeley has had its name changed to the Malcolm X School, which, if astounding, is at least partially appropriate, considering the violence against white teachers and white students which recurrently erupts within this school system.

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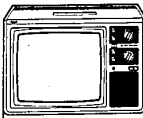
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