

Condit says Court 'listened carefully'

By NANCY STEIN

Cross district busing, the Detroit case, or by its official name, Bradley vs. Milliken . . .

It's all the same complicated case which was presented before the U.S. Supreme Court Wednesday, Feb. 27.

Reduced to it's simplest, it means: Are students to be bused between Detroit and its suburbs in order to balance or remedy Detroit's segregated schools?

Richard Condit, attorney representing the Southfield Board of Education in the busing issue, was in court the day the nine justices heard the arguments for and against cross-district busing.

THERE AS an official observer, Condit was to report back to the school board exactly what happened.

If there should be a further trial, I must be prepared to repre-

sent Southfield in an informed manner."

In sharing his observations of that day, he said, "It would be presumptuous to try and peg how a judge will vote in this case."

"They listened very carefully and asked very few questions which is unusual, and also makes them very hard or impossible to read," Condit said.

"BUT I think it would indicate that some of the judges had already made up their minds."

Each side had a total of 45 minutes to present their case. Briefs (written arguments) were presented earlier so the judges could study them before they heard the case. Southfield's brief ran to 60 printed pages and it wasn't the longest.

Frank Kelley (Michigan Attorney General) spoke first, arguing that neither he, Governor Milliken, or the State Board of Education was in any way responsible for Detroit's de jure (legally) segregated schools.

"He was only asked two questions."

CONDIT SAID he was amazed that William Saxton, attorney for suburbs including Southfield, wasn't interrupted once with even a single question.

They only asked the NAACP lawyers two questions. The only one they really questioned was Solicitor General Robert H. Bork, and I think that's partly because he pointed out the social consequences of cross district busing.

"Everyone else basically argued precedence in earlier laws."

Condit said he is convinced that the court does want to know what a law will mean to people.

"They seemed genuinely surprised when Bork told them that

cross-district busing in Detroit would affect one-and-a-half million parents and children.

"PART OF Bork's argument was that while school districts may well be artificial to start with, once they are established, people structure their lives around them. They seek employment, vote bond issues, and join PTAs in relation to them."

Condit said the availability of gasoline will have no bearing on the court's decision.

"It may be a subconscious thing, but it won't offset their decision I'm sure."

There really is a Mrs. Bradley. Condit mused, "I wonder if the NAACP doesn't go looking for people named Bradley? There's Bradley vs. Topeka, Bradley vs. Grand Rapids and, of course, Bradley vs. Milliken."

Rev. Hugh Stewart expressed concern with the large numbers of students each counselor is responsible for.

Parents, teachers concerned about guidance, counseling

By NANCY STEIN

An hour-and-a-half discussion during the Farmington School Board meeting Tuesday indicates both parents and the school board are deeply concerned with the present secondary guidance and counseling program as it is now operating.

A curriculum report was presented by Roger C. Gault, chairman of the Secondary Guidance and Counseling department.

He indicated that there are 25 counselors in the secondary system involved with the problems of students. They counsel between 200 and 300 students depending on the school.

"Our counselors are not social workers or junior psychiatrists," said Marjorie Van Ameyde, superintendent of schools.

LEWIS SCHULMAN, director of secondary education called on Gerald Sklare, a counselor at Harrison High to explain what he does.

Sklare described working with groups, and counseling teachers as well as students.

"I felt there was a lack of assistance in planning a full four year program on the part of counse-

lors," said William Corliss, school board trustee.

Gault agreed that program is seldom planned for a child on a four year basis and indicated that he saw little need for it.

CORLISS then asked, "Do you feel that there are ninth graders who need no help at all from their counselors in planning their future?"

Gault said he did, that about 75 students in each school do very well with no help from the counselor.

"On the other hand there are students who we must spend a half an hour with. They can't even read the material."

Repeatedly Gault said, "the counselors are not attendance officers or disciplinarians."

HE WAS asked by Gary Lightman, vice president of the board, to state exactly what he saw as the counselors priorities, in order of their importance.

Gault said, "number one is working with students, helping them solve their problems." He defined problems as "anything the student feels is a problem. It may

be, we handle it and help him solve it or we refer it to. I consider a low second on my list of priorities the business of keeping records."

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