

Office Of The Mayor
City of Seattle

Wes Uhlman, Mayor

May 20, 1977

Mr. Don Olson, President
Seattle School Board
Administrative and Service Center
815 Fourth Avenue North
Seattle, Washington 98109

Dear President Olson:

The signators of this letter are sympathetic to the difficulties the Seattle School District must face in developing, adopting and implementing a successful desegregation plan. We wish to commend the School Board and Administration for the exhaustive amount of time and work already devoted to this issue, and to thank you for approaching your task with sensitivity and concern.

Experience elsewhere indicates that a commitment on the part of local leadership has contributed immeasurably to successful desegregation of the public schools. As civic leaders, we have expressed support for desegregation to you individually in the past and will continue to do so in the future. Now, however, the City of Seattle, the Seattle Chamber of Commerce, the Municipal League of Seattle and King County, and the Seattle Urban League wish to go on record together and as one voice to declare united support for your adoption of a definition of racial isolation and measurable goals leading to the elimination of racial isolation in the Seattle Public Schools, prior to a Court ordered and mandated desegregation remedy.

Our position is based on consideration of the following points: First, we believe quality integrated education should be provided for the children of this City. We believe that an integrated education offers children a chance to share self-knowledge and learning experiences so that they can comfortably and compatibly adjust to the pluralistic society of which Seattle is justifiably proud. Second, we believe your adoption of a definition of racial isolation and measurable goals at this time will provide the public with a clear understanding that desegregation will inevitably occur. We know community cooperation, critical to desegregating the schools smoothly without unnecessary disruption, will depend on how well the public is informed. Third, we do not believe that action to desegregate the schools based on goals for elimination of racial isolation must necessarily require extensive random relocation of students. We see these goals as accommodating ranges

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Mr. Don Olson, President
 Seattle School Board
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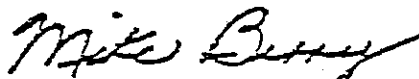
of possible strategies and programs related to the special character of the different communities in this City. Finally, we are unaware of any conclusive evidence that suggests Seattle will experience significant middle-class outmigration as a consequence of school desegregation, as long as certain conditions are met. Outstanding in importance among these conditions are (1) a measurable commitment on your part; (2) open and appropriate involvement of citizens and citizen groups from the point of policy and plan development on through implementation; and (3) the support of others besides yourself who occupy positions of civic responsibility and leadership.

We appreciate this opportunity to tell you that we are ready to stand behind you as you move forward with programs for providing quality integrated education which will further the interests of the people of Seattle.

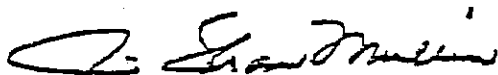
Sincerely,



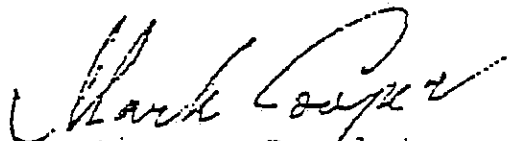
Wes Uhlman, Mayor
 City of Seattle



Mike Berry, President
 Seattle Chamber of Commerce



Shan Mullin, President
 Municipal League of Seattle
 and King County



Mark Cooper, President
 Seattle Urban League

WU:sfc

cc: Mr. Richard Alexander
 Mrs. Cheryl Bleakney
 Mrs. Suzanne Hittman
 Mrs. Dorothy Hollingsworth
 Mrs. Ellen Roe
 Mrs. Patt Sutton
 Honorable Members, Seattle City Council
 Dr. David Moberly, Superintendent

RESOLUTION 1977-8

DEFINITION OF RACIAL IMBALANCE AND 1978-79 AND 1979-80 PERCENTAGE GOALS RESULTING IN THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL IMBALANCE

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of Seattle School District No. 1 has found that the best interests of the children of Seattle School District No. 1 will be served by providing all school children with the opportunity for a quality multiracial education; and

WHEREAS, the Seattle School District has for a number of years worked to improve racial balance in the schools and to provide a multiracial balance in the schools and to provide the opportunity of a multiracial educational environment for all children during their educational careers; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors affirms its policy to work toward a multiracial educational system by whatever just, reasonable, and educationally sound means are available to it; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors is cognizant and appreciative of the strong and united community support for the above described efforts; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Seattle School District No. 1 will eliminate racial imbalance in Seattle Public Schools by the beginning of the 1979-80 school year. Any school exceptions, necessitated by unique program requirements, will only be for educationally sound reasons. These will be documented and approved by the Superintendent on a case-by-case basis, and submitted to the Board for ratification.
2. Racial imbalance is defined as the situation that exists when the combined minority student enrollment in a school exceeds the District-wide combined minority average by 20 percentage points, provided that the single minority enrollment (as defined by current federal categories) of no school will exceed 50 percent of the student body.
3. Racial imbalance will be eliminated by the use of educationally sound strategies.
4. The elimination of racial imbalance will be planned and implemented so that at least one-half of the elimination occurs in the 1978-79 school year. During the 1978-79 school year, this goal will be achieved by eliminating racial imbalance in at least 50 percent of those schools identified as racially imbalanced; or by reducing racial imbalance by one-half in all schools identified as racially imbalanced; or by a combination of these measures.

5. The commitment and definition contained herein is controlling over other commitments and/or definitions which might be construed as inconsistent with this Resolution.

Adopted this 8 day of June, 1977.

Don Olson

Don Olson, President

Suzanne Hittman
Suzanne Hittman, Member

Patt Sutton
Patt Sutton, Vice President

Dorothy Hollingsworth
Dorothy Hollingsworth, Member

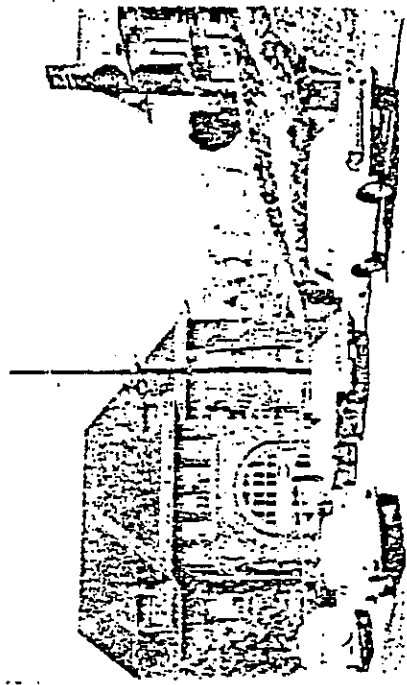
Richard Alexander
Richard Alexander, Member

absent
Ellen Roe, Member

Cheryl Bleakney
Cheryl Bleakney, Member

ATTEST: David L. Moberly
David L. Moberly, Secretary
Board of Directors
Seattle School District No. 1
King County, Washington

SAVE OUR NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOLS



WE NEED NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOLS.

Initiative 350 is a proposed state law which would guarantee children the right to attend the school nearest or next nearest their home. It would end the inconvenience and expense of the present mandatory busing program in Seattle. And most important, it would preserve our neighborhood schools.

This year, over 9,500 children in Seattle lost the right to go to their neighborhood schools. Initiative 350 would return these children to their neighborhoods, because it prevents school administrators from assigning children to schools other than those close to their homes. And that's important, because neighborhood schools help hold our neighborhoods together. They work to create a feeling of community. A sense of pride.

Without 350 our neighborhoods will suffer as families move to other communities which have kept their neighborhood schools. Without 350 our children won't be taught down the street, but across the city as part of a mandatory school busing program.

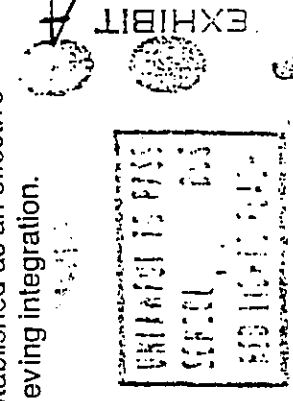
DOLLARS WASTED ON BUSING NONSENSE.

While mandatory busing is disrupting the strength of our neighborhoods, it's also costing the taxpayers a pretty penny.

Busing in Seattle presently costs over \$480.00 per student... three times what other school districts in our state spend on transportation.

With the passage of 350, mandatory busing would end... at a savings of over \$6 million dollars. That money could then be used to improve classroom education.

Quite simply, when it gets down to dollars and cents, mandatory busing is nonsense. Particularly because it has never been established as an effective means of achieving integration.



EXHIBIT

SEATTLE'S BEING TAKEN FOR A RIDE TO NOWHERE.

Busing is hardly a new idea. It's been tried in Detroit, Boston, Atlanta, Cleveland and San Francisco, and studies show that these programs have not resulted in real integration. Instead, they've helped create real problems. Families have moved out of the cities and into the suburbs to avoid busing. They've dropped out of the school system . . . and the pattern seems to be repeating itself in Seattle. Mandatory busing was introduced to our area by bureaucrats and administrators. Since then, one out of every ten students has dropped out of the Seattle school system. And more forced busing is planned for next year.

350 IS FOR OUR NEIGHBORHOOD CHILDREN

Initiative 350 will return common sense to our city schools. It will save tax dollars. End unnecessary busing. Preserve our neighborhood schools. And stabilize our neighborhoods.

Initiative 350.

It guarantees children the right to attend the school nearest or next nearest their home.

It allows for exceptions, such as health, safety hazards, physical barriers, unsafe conditions, or overcrowding.

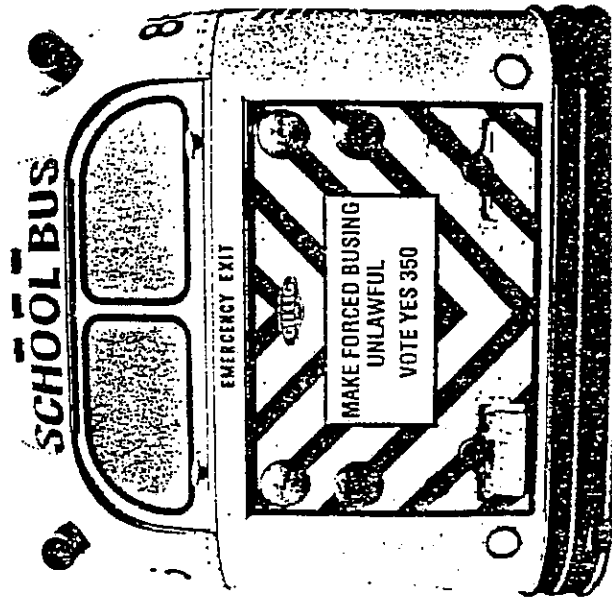
It makes sure students with special problems may be assigned to schools which meet their unique needs.

It protects the right of students to choose voluntary or optional programs.

And it keeps Seattle children in neighborhood schools.

So vote yes on Initiative 350.

For the children. And the city.



1 6. During the election campaign for Initiative 350 we prepared
2 a brochure which was distributed state wide. A copy of this
3 brochure is incorporated herein and attached hereto as Exhibit A.
4 We also placed an ad in the Seattle P.I. Newspaper, a copy of
5 which is attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit B.

6
7 7. During the election campaign we also prepared four 30
8 second radio commercials for C.i.V.I.C. These four are set forth
9 below:

10 a. MAN School children can tell you why to vote "yes"
11 on Initiative 350.

12 CHILD I hardly ever see all my friends that go to
13 Blaine. They see each other every day, every
14 day at school and after school. They're not
15 bused with me. Every, ever since I've gone
16 to Magnolia, I've known all them, my whole life.
17 It just doesn't fit me. 'Cause it's a different
18 area.

16 MAN Save our neighborhood schools. Vote "yes" on
17 Initiative 350 for the children and the city.

17 CHILD This message was paid for by our parents and
18 C.i.V.I.C., Hal Ward, Treasurer.

19
20 b. MAN Seattle school children know why you should vote
21 "yes" on Initiative 350.

22 CHILD We got separated from our friends and all, it's
23 pretty hard to go to a completely new school in
24 a completely new area and stay on the bus say
25 40-45 minutes a day and you think about it and
26 you figure there isn't any reason.

25 MAN End mandatory school busing. Vote "yes" on
26 Initiative 350.

26 CHILD This message was paid for by our parents and
27 C.i.V.I.C., Hal Ward, Treasurer.

1 c. MAN School children can tell you why to vote "yes"
2 on Initiative 350.

3 CHILD Some of my old friends that are bused out, the
4 only time I get to see a couple of them are
5 during football practice; the rest of them, I
6 can't see at all.

7 CHILD We play lots of sports, like we played soccer
8 after school and stuff. We can't do it anymore
9 because they get bused and there's no time for
10 us to play anymore.

11 MAN Make sure children can go to school near their
12 home. Vote "yes" on Initiative 350.

13 CHILD This message was paid for by our parents and
14 C.i.V.I.C., Hal Ward, Treasurer.

15 d. MAN School children can tell you why to vote "yes"
16 on Initiative 350.

17 CHILD It's pretty boring bus ride 'cause you do it
18 every day, there's nothing to talk about or
19 anything. They said it was supposed to be 20
20 minutes to a half hour and it turns out to be
21 a half hour to 40 minutes.

22 CHILD People should take the kids' point of view.
23 They're not being bused. We are and I hate it.

24 MAN Vote "yes" on Initiative 350 for the children and
25 the City.

26 CHILD This message was paid for by our parents and
27 C.i.V.I.C., Hal Ward, Treasurer.

28 8. After reviewing the first radio commercial above, (a),
29 C.i.V.I.C. instructed us not to allow it to be run on the radio.
30 The other ads were run on a rotating basis on the radio over the
period of October 26 to November 5, 1978.

9. The above radio commercials were run on the following radio
stations: KXLY Radio-Spokane, 38 times; KHQ Radio-Spokane, 36 times;

