



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Public Affairs

Office of the Director

Washington, D.C. 20530

May 7, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Attorney General
Deputy Attorney General
Associate Attorney General
Solicitor General
Theodore Olson
Jonathan Rose
Robert McConnell
Ken Starr
Stan Morris
Tex Lezar
Hank Habicht
Carolyn Kuhl
John Roberts

FROM: Tom DeCair

Attached are transcripts of network reporting of the court-stripping and busing opinions.

Attachments

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FOR JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

PROGRAM CBS Evening News STATION WDVM TV
CBS Network

DATE May 6, 1982 7:00 PM CITY Washington, DC

SUBJECT Voluntary Prayers in Public Schools

DAN RATHER: Long before President Reagan backed a prayer amendment today, conservatives in Congress have been trying to accomplish the same thing another way, but passing a law limiting the powers of the court, and not just on prayers, but also on court-ordered school busing and abortion.

Today, Attorney General William French Smith ended a long silence on two of those bills. Smith said he would defend the constitutionality of one bill that would strip the Supreme Court of the power to rule on voluntary prayers in the public schools. He also said he would defend the bill curtailing the power of federal courts to order school busing for desegregation.

However, the Attorney General told conservatives there is a limit to what Congress can do to keep controversial social issues out of the Supreme Court.

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FOR JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

PROGRAM NBC Nightly News

STATION WRC TV
NBC Network

DATE May 6, 1982 7:00 PM

CITY Washington, DC

SUBJECT School Prayer Issue

ROGER MUDD: Just a few hours before the President made his Rose Garden appearance, Attorney General William Smith let it be known that he would support a Senate bill denying the Supreme Court jurisdiction over public prayer cases. That bill has heavy backing from the conservatives.

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FOR DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

PROGRAM Good Morning Washington STATION WJLA TV
ABC Network

DATE May 7, 1982 7:00 AM CITY Washington, DC

SUBJECT Attorney General's Statement on Busing

[David Hartman was interviewing Professor Arthur Smith, Good Morning America's legal expert.]

DAVID HARTMAN: In just a minute, Arthur, let's hit the busing question. Attorney General William French Smith's statement yesterday.

What's going on and could there be some problems on this one?

PROF. ARTHUR MILLER: Well, there's a great movement to get the federal courts of the United States out of controversial areas such as busing, school prayer and abortions. And the proposal before Congress literally strips away the jurisdiction, the power of the federal courts to hear cases involving busing.

It would not affect our policy toward desegregation of racially imbalanced schools. It simply would eliminate the use of court ordered busing as a remedy to correct that imbalance.

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FOR JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

PROGRAM ABC World News Tonight

STATION WJLA TV
ABC Network

DATE May 6, 1982 7:00 PM

CITY Washington, DC

SUBJECT School Prayer Cases

FRANK REYNOLDS: The Attorney General, William French Smith today gave a very luke warm endorsement to a bill that would deny the Supreme Court the right to rule on school prayer cases. In a letter to Congress, Smith expressed strong misgiving about legislators possibly intruding on the rights of the Court.

In a separate letter today, the Attorney General declared that the anti-busing legislation now working its way through the Congress, is constitutional.

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