

School Segregation Laws Are Condemned

By Louis Harris

BY DECISIVE MARGINS, the American people are opposed to school segregation by law (de jure) but find it possible to justify segregation in education when it results from neighborhood living pattern (de facto). By a clear 58 to 19 per cent, the public condemns laws which specify segregation in schooling. But by an even more one-sided 61 to 19 per cent, most Americans also condone de facto segregation.

Both forms of school segregation are pivotal in the disputes which have arisen over enforcement of the US Supreme Court ruling that wherever schools have been segregated by law, they must be desegregated "now." The court has not ruled, however, that de facto segregation is illegal. Opponents of the court ruling in the South have claimed that the South has been unfairly discriminated against by the action to desegregate schools in that region. In some northern communities, such as Los Angeles, federal courts have ordered an end to de facto segregation, but generally when all-white and all-black schools result from neighborhood living patterns, this balance has remained intact.

One of the keys to school desegregation in the North is the issue of busing children from one neighborhood to schools in another neighborhood to achieve racial balance. The public was asked about busing and came down overwhelmingly 73 to 19 per cent in opposition, despite the fact that 45 per cent of the parents of children in elementary or high schools report their children are bused today. Only the parents of black children favored busing to achieve racial balance by a relatively narrow 46 to 40 per cent margin.

A cross-section of 1,561 households was recently asked by the Harris Survey:

"In the South, segregated schools result from the states and school districts providing that white children must go to white schools and black children to black schools. This is called segregation by law. In general, do you think this system of separate black and white schools is right or wrong?"

DE JURE SEGREGATION

	Right %	Wrong %	Depends %	Not Sure %
Nationwide	19	58	16	7
By Region				
East	11	63	18	8
Midwest	17	60	14	9
South	32	43	17	8
West	15	70	12	3
By Age				
Under 30	16	67	12	5
30-49	13	63	17	7
50 and over	29	42	17	12
By Race				
White	20	57	15	8
Black	15	57	20	8

A majority outside of the South condemns segregation of schools by law. In the South itself, opposition to such segregation is expressed by a 43 to 32 per cent margin. In the Deep South, the division comes to 45 to 37 per cent in opposition to de jure segregation. Clearly, young people of every region oppose such legislated segregation.

However, the country is equally unified in justifying de facto segregation, where separate schools result from segregated patterns of neighborhoods. The cross-section was asked:

"In the North, segregated schools result from whites and blacks living in neighborhoods which are all white or all

black. Children go to schools in their home neighborhood. The result is called in fact segregation, even though there are no laws requiring segregated schools. Do you think this system in the North of separate white and black schools, due to neighborhoods being that way, is right or wrong?"

DE FACTO SEGREGATION

	Right %	Wrong %	Depends %	Not Sure %
Nationwide	61	19	12	8
By Region				
East	51	26	16	7
Midwest	62	19	9	10
South	63	13	11	13
West	69	17	9	5
By Age				
Under 30	57	26	10	7
30-49	61	18	14	7
50 and over	63	12	11	14
By Race				
White	65	16	11	8
Black	32	40	16	12

Buttressing the majority view in opposition to de facto segregation is overwhelming opposition to busing school children to achieve racial balance in education. The cross-section was asked:

"As you know, many children are bused to school now. It has been pointed out that one way to integrate the schools is to bus children from one area to another. Suppose it could be worked out so that there was no more busing of school children than there is now in each community and in each state. Would you favor or oppose using busing to achieve integrated schools?"

BUSING TO ACHIEVE INTEGRATION

	Favor %	Oppose %	Not Sure %
Nationwide	19	73	8
By Race			
White	16	77	7
Black	46	40	14

While there appears to be agreement in America that segregation by law is indefensible, the day when de facto segregation in the North will mount a consensus of opposition appears to be distant, indeed.

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Ghana Reports Oil, Gas Find

ACCRA, Ghana (AP) — An American consortium has struck oil and gas in significant quantities off the coast of central Ghana about 73 miles west of Accra, Lands and Minerals Minister Reginald Amponsah announced today.

Amponsah said the consortium includes the Signal Exploration and Development Co.,

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