

900 Attend Bullard Hearing; Most Rap Forced Busing Plans

By Richard Hall

An estimated 900 persons crowded into the Bullard High School cafeteria last night to make known their views on busing of students to achieve school integration.

It was one of the hearings sponsored by the city school board's Citizens Committee of 15 for Racial Balance in the Schools.

The great majority indicated they are opposed to busing their children to other schools to achieve the racial and ethnic balance required by law or for any purpose.

Also demonstrated at the two-hour meeting was the sharp difference in attitude and philosophy between most of the several teen-age speakers and most of the adults.

On the opposite sides of that difference, the adults talked about taxes, time wasted riding buses and individual rights.

The teen-agers, several of whom said they attend Edison High School in West Fresno for half of their school day, talked about the value of relations between persons being more important to their education than the academic side, and the absence of fear and the growth of understanding which occurs after they get to know each other. A girl said she does much of her homework while riding the bus.

The school district last fall began a busing program for high school students who voluntarily agree to attend Edison for half of their classes each day. A Bullard High student, who said he favored a voluntary busing program, commented that more than a busload from Bullard attended Edison under that program last semester, and many were going this semester, some in private cars. "I'm sure some parents don't know this," he added.

There were exceptions on both sides. For example, Mrs. Janet Moore said opposition to busing is "an irrational attitude. The fear of having children attend with others of different races seems to be more the fear of the parents."

Milton Wall, a parent, said

busing would be an inconvenience "but if busing will help bring about more social justice and equal opportunity in Fresno, then I would be willing to have my children bused."

A man who said he had taught at Edison for six years spoke of "the need to get kids out of the ghetto so they can learn to compete. I don't have the solution. I hope you can find one. As an American, I'll abide by it."

In the other group of exceptions, a girl, obviously under stress, screamed into the microphone, "I'm not going to let anyone bus me anywhere I don't want to go. Open enrollment, that's what I believe." She identified herself as a member of the Young Americans for Freedom.

Another girl who said she opposed busing, commented, "If you bus them (students from West Fresno) over to a school like this, surrounded by people who have a lot of money, they are going to feel low."

A girl, who said she was a Bullard High student, echoed many of the adults in saying she was not opposed to integra-

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Veto Leaves School Issue Still Unsettled

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House refusal to override President Nixon's veto of the \$19.7 billion education money bill has given the administration a surprising victory, but the

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tion, but "we should not give away our right of choice."

Many of the 41 speakers said they did not object to having students bused into their schools, but they objected to having their children bused away from their neighborhood.

The majority view against busing was indicated by the frequent applause given speakers who followed that line, and the occasional boos and laughs given those who did not.

A few persons gave proposals. These included pairing elementary schools, such as Kratt and Kirz, and dividing them into Grades 1, 3, and 5, and Grades 2, 4, and 6. Thus each child would be bused every other year.

Others were: To augment municipal buses to share the load with district school buses; to close West Fresno; to find minority group families and attempt to have them move into other neighborhoods, to have each high school offer specialized courses, and expand the voluntary program and provide late afternoon transportation so students may participate in after-school activities.

The committee was criticized for not giving answers to certain questions, but replied the intent of the hearings is to hear the views of the public, rather than to present a lot of statistics.

Meeting in the faculty room after the hearing, the committee members agreed to ask district administrators to attend the remaining four hearings to answer questions.

The committee also will ask the administration for some

kind of estimate on the cost of busing students, and will seek to have the legal status of the district's racial imbalance situation clarified.

The next committee hearing will be at 8 o'clock tonight at Edison High School.

The committee members said they were disturbed by the lack of maturity exhibited during the hearing by many of the adults, such as the woman who demanded "that all teen-agers and non-taxpayers please keep your mouths shut. My children do not want to be bused. They are not going to be and I don't care what they want."

The committee members also noted the large amount of misinformation displayed by many of the speakers. Dr. Nathalie Wolfe, the chairman, said information packets the students were supposed to take home were not distributed by Bullard officials to the students.

(Joseph P. Wilkins, Bullard's vice principal, said the packets were given to teachers who distributed them to students during sixth-period classes Thursday. He said teachers were reminded on Friday to distribute the packets if they had failed to do so.)

Before the hearing, Richard Oliver, a Bullard senior, and John Castle, a Washington Union High School teacher, told reporters they represented the Fresno Unified Young Americans for Freedom, the Fresno City College YAF, and the Citizens for Education Freedom. They said the groups are considering legal action to prevent "forced integration." Oliver estimated the three groups total about 250 persons.