

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

September 13, 1971

Dr. Hector P. Garcia
American G I Forum of the U.S.
1315 Dright Street
Corpus Christi, Texas 78405

Dear Dr. Garcia:

I appreciated receiving your letter expressing opposition to "forced busing."

The sensitivity of the issue requires that all of us from the President down look beyond our personal emotions and place the entire problem in its proper perspective. It is important to note that neither the Supreme Court nor the Administration has called for "forced busing." In the Court's recent decision, Swann v. Charlotte-Mecklenberg, Chief Justice Burger wrote "we find no basis for holding that the local school authorities may not be required to employ bus transportation as one tool of school desegregation." (Emphasis added.)

Forty percent of America's school districts use busing for perfectly valid purposes, and in many districts, reasonable busing patterns are appropriate to counter segregation practices which were preserved by improper housing patterns. Likewise, of course, some busing patterns to allegedly achieve racial balance can be unreasonable. The test is one of reasonableness in each case. Thus, I will oppose the President's proposed amendment prohibiting the use of any of the \$1.5 billion in desegregation aid for the busing of students. This would prevent the reasonable, as well as the unreasonable use of busing.

This matter merits the serious consideration of us all and I am pleased you have taken the time to express your views.

Respectfully,



Paul N. McCloskey, Jr.

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