SCHOOL BUSING AN ISSUE AGAIN



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10. SCHOOL BUSING AN ISSUE AGAIN



Busing, as a tool to integrate American schools, was (and remains) a political-hot-button issue. Protests for and against busing occurred throughout the country. Cities, such as Boston, became known for their pro-and-con demonstrations. In this image, from the Library of Congress, we see children on their way to school as they pass-by protestors. The Library's <u>curators tell us more</u>:

"African American children [in New York City] on way to PS204, 82nd Street and 15th Avenue, pass mothers protesting the busing of children to achieve integration." The photo was taken by Dick DeMarsico on September 13, 1965. Click on the image for a full-page view.

As America tried to make her peace with the wounds of Vietnam and the scars of segregation, schools implemented plans for racial diversity. *Swann v Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education* had long been a closed case when new events in North Carolina caused it to be reopened.

This time white plaintiffs alleged that race-based integration plans discriminated against children who are not black. Three decades after the Supreme Court declared it would

eliminate from the public schools all vestiges of state-imposed segregation...

a new set of white plaintiffs asserted race-conscious admission policies are discriminatory. In other words, they alleged the *Swann* case itself became unconstitutional.

The climate of America, however, was much different when the *Swann* case returned to the Supreme Court. The turbulent days of 1971 are completely unknown by an entire generation. Even for people who lived through gut-wrenching days of political unrest, student protest and seemingly endless war in Vietnam, those times are becoming a distant memory.

It seems fitting, then, to <u>Remember the Titans</u> as they and their coaches confronted not only the internal pressures of integration, but also the external pressures of political unrest. To have become champions despite formidable odds against them is a tribute to the character of T. C. Williams High, its football team and their coaches.

It is also a testament to the power of the human spirit in overcoming the most extraordinary obstacles imaginable.

NOTE:

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See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/SCHOOL-BUSING-AN-ISSUE-AGAIN-Remember-The-Tit ans

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/SCHOOL-BUSING-AN-ISSUE-AGAIN-Remember-The-Tita