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Biden on Busing: 'Don't Learn This Early to Hate'

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WASHINGTON - About 120 fifth-graders from Newark, Del., heard one of their U.S. senators plead with them yesterday to accept busing if it comes next fall and "don't learn this early to hate people."

"Kids had no choice in this," Sen. Joseph R. Biden Jr. told the visitors from Newark's Etta J. Wilson Elementary School.

"You shouldn't hate black

kids," the senator said. "They had

nothing to do with it. "Black kids don't want to come to your school any more than you want to go to their school," he

said. Biden encountered the fifthgraders, and a half-dozen adult chaperones, in a Capitol corridor as he was leaving a meeting of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee with President-elect. Jimmy Carter.

He asked a Capitol policeman to unlock a door to the little-used

north portico where the kids, the chaperones and a few curious passers-by gathered on the steps. Then Biden, standing coatless in the 40-degree weather, agreed to

answer questions. One of the first questions was

about busing.

Wilmington and suburban New Castle County schools have been ordered by a federal court to begin desegregation in the fall of 1977. The order, which is being appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

would require inter-district bus-

"I don't think it's a very smart idea," said Delaware's Democrat-

ic senator.

The all-white crowd cheered. Biden told them that he and Delaware's other senator, Republican William V. Roth Jr., have been working to change the law but reminded them "you've got to obey whatever the court says the

And if the court orders busing, Biden said, "you have an obligation to act like good kids."

"Don't let your parents tell you to hate," the senator told the kids. as some of their parents looked on. "I know this loses me 5,000 par-

eats' votes," he said, winding up his five-minute oration. "But I don't give a damn."

The Delaware senator earlier expressed enthusiasm, as he emerged from the hour-long meeting with Carter, about the next president's pledge to keep Congress informed on major foreign policy initiatives.

He predicted the days of the hitter battles between Congress and the White House over foreign poli-

cy are about to end. "I think you'll find," Biden told reporters, that Carter's foreign policy "will agree with a consensus of the foreign relations committee" more than that of any

other recent president. The Foreign Relations Committee, particularly under the former rule of Sen. J. William Fulbright,

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