

The Baxter Bye-Line

Issue #4

School Busing

One battle Delaware could've won ...until Joe Biden stepped in...



"IF THAT WAS A PHONY ISSUE, I'D HATE TO FEEL A REAL ONE!"

"BUSING A PHONY ISSUE

...NO SHORT-TERM
ALTERNATIVE."

SAYS BIDEN

In 1972 Joe Biden declared school busing "a phony issue which allows the white liberals to sit in suburbia, confident that they are not going to have to live next to a black... the kind of things that make great discussions at cocktail parties but do not change the direction of the country (Evening News, 3/27/72.)"

Similarly, on July 10, 1974 (The Morning News) Biden declares, "I would support the use of buses... I would support the use of helicopters" to transport children in instances where school districts have been gerrymandered for segregation purposes.

The next year Biden admits "busing will not work. It is a bankrupt policy (State News, 9/18/75)."

But only three months later Biden writes to the downstate newspapers, "In the short run, there is really no one specific alternative to busing (County Post, 12/17/75)."

Joe Biden could have stopped school busing in Delaware. On May 15, 1974 the Garnery Amendment to prohibit federal courts or agencies from ordering busing of students for purposes of racial desegregation to stay but the school closest to the student's home DONT on the floor of the U.S. Senate by a 57-46 vote. That one WRONG vote was Joe Biden's. As a result we have school busing today.

When it comes to Biden's "too little—too late" record on busing it's tough for any objective person to tell which is worse: to be absent from the job 14% of the time or to vote the wrong way.

Just remember, in New Castle County it's not the school busing issue that's the "phony."

...SCHOOL BUSING

Nothing is more controversial in Delaware than the school busing issue. On no other issue has Joe Biden waffled more.

Once again Biden is attempting to be all things to all people. The fact is that six years after Biden calls school busing "a phony issue" and four years after the federal district court ordered Delaware to submit busing plans, our children are being bused.

Biden's insincerity is proven by his lack of consistency on the issue. Even the Washington Post in an editorial says that Biden's "proposals almost by definition can do little more than complicate the present situation in the schools and promote a flood of further litigation (9/23/75)."

Of course, Biden introduced several anti-busing amendments in the Senate. One even passed. But the truth is that Biden's busing amendments did nothing, could do nothing, and were NOT designed to do anything to stop school busing in Delaware. Delaware's busing is court-ordered. Biden's amendments dealt only with HEW forced busing—not court-ordered!

Baxter. United States Senate.

A CHANGE FOR THE BETTER.

This is one in a continuing series on the Biden record.
Watch this column for further issues.
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