

Memorandum



Subject

Preparation for first meeting of agency
representatives on Chicago school
desegregation

Date

October 8, 1980

To Drew S. Days III
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

From Alexander C. Ross *ACR*
Special Litigation Counsel
Civil Rights Division

Attached is an outline of some ways federal agencies might coordinate their programs to assist in the creation of integrated schools in Chicago and its suburbs. I hope it will become much more detailed as we learn what other agencies are doing or can do.

I agree with your suggestion that after telling the representatives what the school case is about and giving them a general idea of the goals of this project (perhaps with a few examples), we should make this first meeting a learning session for us, with the representatives telling us what they think they can do. I think the attached outline will be helpful in responding to those who may start out doubting that their agencies can make any contribution.

We may also want to talk about Title VI enforcement, but without suggesting that the agencies are not now doing their job. Asking them to commit more resources to Title VI enforcement in Chicago might elicit a negative response - perhaps we can suggest nothing more than an exchange of information on a pilot project to implement the new Title VI coordination regulations. I believe that one of the problems we have to overcome is that some agencies view Title VI as a negative, "thou shalt not discriminate" provision and have not sat down to think about imaginative ways to use federal funding affirmatively.

One thing we do not know is how much coordination is already going on. We should ask about this and get examples.

We should think about what public statements, if any, we want made about this meeting and the project itself.

Another thing we need to talk about is the structure and staffing of this group as it gets underway. We also should think about data collection and coordination - and who is going to pay for it.

ACR

In addition to data about their programs, the agencies may be helpful in identifying the persons or organizations in the Chicago area who may be helpful; e.g, developers, planning commissions, etc. Ultimately, we are going to have to work with the "users" and the beneficiaries of federal grants and programs.