

T. 10/27/81  
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DJ 169-10-0

Honorable John G. Fary  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Congressman Fary:

The Attorney General has asked me to respond to your October 8, 1981, letter to him concerning the Chicago School Board's desegregation plan as it affects the Graham and Hendricks elementary schools.

In school desegregation cases courts have placed the initial responsibility for developing details of desegregation plans on local school officials. The Consent Decree entered on September 24, 1980, in this case is consistent with the law in this area in that it gives the Chicago School Board the discretion to produce any comprehensive plan that falls within the broad range of constitutionally acceptable plans.

The Board's adjustment of boundary lines at Graham and Hendricks is part of the first phase of its plan; the rest of the plan is scheduled to be completed in two months and implemented next fall and in the 1983-84 school year. After the comprehensive student assignment plan has been presented to us, it will be our responsibility to tell the court whether or not the plan as a whole meets the requirements of the Consent Decree and the Constitution.

The principles upon which the Chicago School Board has based its initial desegregation steps have emphasized voluntary transfers and mandatory reassignments which do not involve busing (including elementary attendance area changes). The Department

cc: Records  
Chrono  
OLA

Ross  
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