3-20-1972

Comments on School Bussing, delivered on March 20, 1972

Arend D. Lubbers
Grand Valley State University

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/presidential_speeches
Part of the Archival Science Commons, Education Commons, and the History Commons

Recommended Citation
https://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/presidential_speeches/22

This Speech is brought to you for free and open access by the University Archives at ScholarWorks@GVSU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Presidential Speeches by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks@GVSU. For more information, please contact scholarworks@gvsu.edu.
Comments on School Bussing

by Arend D. Lubbers
President of Grand Valley State College
March 20, 1972

Most people who oppose school bussing to achieve racial balance in schools are not against an integrated school system. The greatest fear is that children bussed into central city schools from the suburbs will receive inferior education. Parents might not object to bussing if they are convinced that their children will receive a good education, no matter which school they attend.

Using bussing as a means to an admirable goal of racial integration in our schools may have "put the cart before the horse." We needed to overhaul our school systems before we tried to integrate them through bussing.

Now that President Nixon is asking the nation to solve the problem caused by weak schools, we can afford to limit the bussing policy while we do it. At this time, the nation will be better served if bussing is allowed to continue where it has worked without controversy but not forced where a substantial number of people object to it. The President is wise not to ask for a constitutional amendment, because, under improved conditions, in the future bussing may not be so objectionable.

The major question is whether or not our school systems, as many are presently organized and staffed, can solve their problems. We need innovative, committed people to work on the problem. We need closer cooperation among local school boards, municipal governments, and federal, state, and local social agencies to bring about the conditions that will allow for improved schools.
We need the spirit of religious revival in our educational system. We must have people with the passion and "know-how" to bring new life to our schools.

President Nixon asked Congress to provide money to correct a serious weakness and inequity in education. Do we as citizens have the will to use it wisely? Equal education will go a long way to make equal opportunities available in the job market. It will help each person achieve according to his ability and aspiration without consideration of race. Bussing students from a weak school to a strong one or from a weak school to another weak one will heighten racial tensions. Bussing students from a strong school to another strong school may not be so difficult.

Let's table the bussing question for now and get about the business of educational reform.