The original documents are located in Box 35, "6/24/76 - Television Message Upon Proposing to Congress the School Desegregation Standards and Assistance Act of 1976" of the President's Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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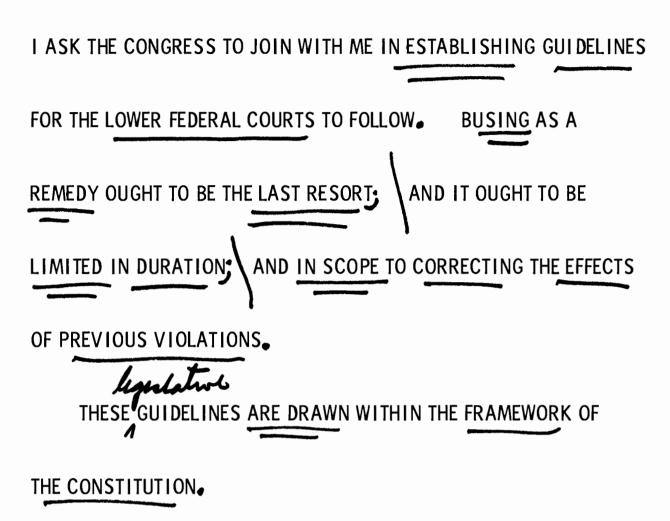
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THE TELEVISION OF A COMPANY

PRESIDENT'S TELEVISION MESSAGE ON BUSING JUNE 24, 1976

TO MANY AMERICANS, BUSING APPEARS THE ONLY WAY TO ACHIEVE THE EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY SO LONG DENIED THEM. TO MANY OTHER AMERICANS. BUSING APPEARS TO RESTRICT THEIR INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM TO CHOOSE THE BEST SCHOOL FOR THEIR CHILDREN TO ATTEND. IT IS MY RESPONSIBILITY, AND THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CONGRESS, TO SEEK A SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM TRUE TO OUR COMMON BELIEFS IN CIVIL RIGHTS FOR ALL AMERICANS, INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM FOR EVERY AMERICAN, AND THE BEST POSSIBLE PUBLIC EDUCATION FOR OUR CHILDREN. TODAY I AM SENDING LEGISLATION TO THE CONGRESS WHICH

I BELIEVE OFFERS SUCH A SOLUTION.



I BELIEVE EVERY AMERICAN COMMUNITY SHOULD DESEGREGATE

ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS.

THEREFORE I AM PROPOSING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF CITIZENS WHO HAVE HAD COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE IN SCHOOL DESEGREGATION, AND WHO ARE WILLING TO ASSIST OTHER COMMUNITIES IN VOLUNTARILY DESEGREGATING THEIR

SCHOOLS.

WILL NOT TOLERATE UNLAWFUL SEGREGATION.

LET ME STATE HERE AND NOW THAT THIS ADMINISTRATION

POINT OF VIOLENCE.

CONCERN HAS BEEN EXPRESSED THAT BY SUBMITTING THIS BILL AT THIS TIME, WE RISK ENCOURAGING THOSE WHO ARE RESISTING COURT-ORDERED DESEGREGATION - SOMETIMES TO THE

THE BUSING ISSUE HAVE TOLD ME SUCH A COMMITTEE WOULD BE A WELCOME RESOURCE TO COMMUNITIES WHICH FACE UP TO THE ISSUE HONESTLY, VOLUNTARILY AND IN THE BEST SPIRIT OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY.

CITIZENS GROUPS I HAVE CONSULTED ON BOTH SIDES OF

WE WILL ACT SWIFTLY AND EFFECTIVELY AGAINST ANYONE

WHO ENGAGES IN VIOLENCE.

THIS ADMINISTRATION WILL DO WHATEVER IT MUST TO

PRESERVE ORDER AND TO PROTECT THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS OF

OUR CITIZENS.

THE PURPOSE OF SUBMITTING THIS LEGISLATION NOW IS TO PLACE THE DEBATE ON THIS CONTROVERSIAL ISSUE IN THE HALLS OF CONGRESS A RESPONSIBLE AND ORDERLY DEBATE WITHIN THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS -- AND NOT ON THE STREETS OF OUR CITIES.

END OF TEXT