

April 30, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

AGNES WALDRON

FROM:

ROM NESSEN

Again thanks for the wealth of information on the Winchester  
Apple Blossom Festival. Keep this kind of thing coming!

RN/pp



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

TO: Ron Nason

FROM: AGNES WALDRON

This comment by  
Plazer might be  
useful in the future

# Correspondence

*New Republic*  
November 15, 1975

## Fooling With Busing

To the editors:

John Mathews ("Fooling with Busing," *TNR*, October 11) writes, "many . . . Northern and Western school systems . . . are now as rigidly segregated as the South was before *Brown* . . ." This is simply and completely wrong. No Northern or Western school system is today totally segregated, as were all the Southern systems at the time of *Brown*. In every one blacks attend schools with whites, whites attend school with blacks. We have moved in desegregation litigation from an effort to dismantle dual school systems—which had been achieved a few years ago—to a completely different undertaking, reducing the concentrations of blacks in given schools, a concentration that is only in very small measure attributable to state or public action.

Mr. Mathews is further in error in taking President Ford to task for saying "some of the courts" failed to follow the Esch amendment, requiring them to consider other methods than busing in desegregating schools. The President was exactly right: the Boston court, for example, refused to consider approaches that would extend voluntary measures of desegregation, insisting on assignment to schools by race, which required busing.

Finally Mr. Mathews resorts to a peculiar formulation when he says Congress would be "defying" the courts if it were to take action to amend the Constitution. Would he have said Con-

gress "defied" the Court when it passed the amendment permitting the income tax? It was rather taking steps under the Constitution to amend the Constitution. This is not defiance; this is its Constitutional role, as it is the Court's role to say what the unamended Constitution means.

I believe liberal opinion on the busing issue in the North is confused in part because of such incorrect and loose formulations of the issue.

Nathan Glazer  
Harvard University  
Graduate School of Education