

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

March 15, 2000 LB 1399

a century, under court order, they could not desegregate them. But from May to September they were able to resegregate them. That shows where their interests lie. So I know things that teachers have participated in that hurt the children that I want to see educated. Teachers were out there beating the bushes in support of that bond issue, they were sending material home with children in support of that bond issue to resegregate the schools. And it wasn't busing, they kept saying busing, it's not busing, it's what's at the end of the bus ride. If a white child gets on a bus and at the end of the bus ride is a white school, that's all right, because once the schools were resegregated, white parents started complaining because they said I thought my child would still be able to ride a bus, but it would go to a white school. They said, well no, if you live within a mile and a half of school, your child doesn't ride a bus. They said, I didn't think that's what it was for, I thought it was just to stop busing white children into black schools. But to make it look like there's some kind of legitimacy, they applied it across the board. So white parents are saying now, my child, in the wintertime, is going to have to walk in the snow, may have to walk through areas where there are not good sidewalks. They didn't care about that at first, because all that they were told is that we're going to put neighborhood schools back in place, and that's code word for segregated schools, and they are resegregating them right now. They had what they called magnet schools that were supposed to be so attractive that they would have to use a lottery system...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...to determine which children would go there. Well, the magnet schools in the black communities, white kids aren't going there. Their parents make the decision, not the children. There were white children and black children pictured in the paper, both the children in tears because they were going to be separated from each other because of the way the schools were going to be operated. So there were adults calling the shots. And teachers participated in that. They shouldn't make too much of a...they shouldn't try to make too much of a case of these teachers being such great people as though they can walk on water and turn water into wine. I don't believe that. Let's keep it on the basis of people doing some