

Ford says Levi will give busing report this week

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Washington — President Ford said yesterday that a decision will be reached this week on the first judicial step toward finding a method of school integration without the "tragedies" that have accompanied the busing of children from one area to another.

The administration move to inject itself into the busing controversy came less than a week before the tight primary in Kentucky, where transportation of schoolchildren has become a bitter issue.

Ronald H. Nessen, presidential news secretary, denied that this was a "political move." Yet, there were indications that the President was urging Edward H. Levi, Attorney General, toward a decision which might be "appropriately" used to request that the Supreme Court re-examine busing as a method of integration.

According to Mr. Nessen, Mr. Ford told Mr. Levi yesterday to "consult with him" as soon as a suitable test case is found. The President later in the day told reporters that he expected the Attorney General to be at the White House this week to report on his decision.

"I think that is a very appropriate thing for him to do and for me to have, but he will make the decision," Mr. Ford stressed as one whose opposi-

tion to school busing has been longstanding.

The President added, "I believe we may have some ways to achieve the results [of integration] without the tragedies that have occurred in some of our major metropolitan areas."

The administration proposal to call for a Supreme Court review of the school busing problem, using as a basis the application of that method in the explosive Boston situation, met with protests from Capitol Hill and organized labor.

Senator Edward W. Brooke (R., Mass.) met for 90 minutes with Mr. Levi to try to dissuade the administration from any move that would ally it to anti-busing forces and "give heart and encouragement to those who have been guilty of violence in Boston."

George Meany, AFL-CIO president, attacked those who opposed busing as a means of desegregating schools, contend-

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ing, "Busing is not the issue. The issue is quality education."

According to Mr. Meany, busing had improved the quality of education for millions, "and there isn't the slightest reason to pretend suddenly that schoolbusing is somehow in itself harmful or undemocratic."

The latest chapter in the busing saga began when the White House disclosed Tuesday that Mr. Ford had given Mr. Levi an overall policy directive last November to seek an "appropriate and proper" case for high court review. The White House had been told that the attorney general was concentrating on the Boston case, said Mr. Nessen.

The press secretary admitted that the President had told the attorney general that if, after he had concluded consideration on whether Boston was a proper case to raise with the courts, he wanted to tell him (the President) of that conclusion, then Mr. Ford would be happy to see him.

However, Mr. Nessen refused to discuss what role the President would play when the Levi decision was reached.