

SF Examiner

AUG 31 1971

'Minimum Busing'-- HEW, Nixon Agree

Examiner News Services

SAN CLEMENTE — Secretary Elliot Richardson of Health, Education and Welfare said today he was in total agreement with President Nixon's stand on school busing and had not considered resigning after Nixon disavowed a HEW plan to desegregate schools in Austin, Tex.

Richardson briefed newsmen after meeting for an hour with Nixon at the Western White House on a range of subjects dealing with his department.

He said he agreed with the President that "busing should not be used except to the minimum possible extent."

'Neighborhood Schools'

There had been rumors that there was a rift between Richardson and Nixon over the touchy busing problem.

"He believes children should be able to attend schools in their neighborhoods," Richardson said of Nixon. "I knew this was his view. I supported it as did my colleagues in HEW."

Richardson said Nixon issued his Aug. 3 statement saying he would abide by the Supreme Court rulings on busing only to the minimum because he felt his policies were "grossly misunderstood."

"We don't think brandishing a big stick or sending federal marshals" into the South is the way to desegregate schools," Richardson said.

South Lauded

Richardson emphasized that Nixon believes busing should be used only to the minimum extent necessary to comply with desegregation laws.

He said Nixon commented on the "remarkable degree of public understanding . . . that is being displayed in the South in accommodating itself to court requirements that have carried desegregation much farther than anywhere else in the country. We agreed that great credit is due not only to school officials . . . but to parents, black and white, throughout the South."