

from column by James M. Naughton :

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Elliot L. Richardson considered resigning last week when President Nixon dis-

avowed the Health, Education and Welfare Secretary's plan for extensive busing to desegregate elementary schools in Austin, Tex.

Mr. Richardson regarded the plan, which a Federal judge in Austin discarded in favor of part-time shared "cultural experiences" among the city's white "Anglo," Mexican-American and black pupils, as the only appropriate means of ending the Austin dual school system.

Mr. Nixon's announcement on Tuesday that the Justice Department would appeal the Austin judge's decision but "disavow [the H.E.W.] plan on behalf of the Government" was interpreted by Mr. Richardson as a direct slap at him.

But after discussing his unhappiness with members of his staff, Secretary Richardson decided that the setback was "survivable" and, as the President's decision was being made public at the White House, went off to Alaska on vacation.  
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