

Ted Hits Nixon's Bus Plan

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WASHINGTON — (UPI) — Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) believes President Nixon "duped" the American people and moved the country back toward segregated schools when he advanced his plan to ease forced busing of school children.

Kennedy in a Senate speech yesterday, denounced Nixon's call for a moratorium on new busing plans and expenditure of \$2.5 billion to upgrade inferior schools. Kennedy said he was against "indiscriminate busing that risks the health of children."

"But I also recognize that in many situations busing has been and still is the only possible device to end outright segregation and discrimination in the public schools of local communities," Kennedy said.

Kennedy said Nixon's plan would "perpetuate segregated educational systems where they continue to exist and permit to those districts who have tried to desegregate the forlorn hope that they too might return to the separate but equal system of the past — a system which while separate had never been equal."

Kennedy said Nixon "duped the American public" because the President implied he was proposing to add \$2.5 billion in new funds to improve inferior schools when he was really talking about \$1.5 billion which congress has already approved.

Kennedy was joined in criticizing the Nixon plan by two House liberals, Reps. William F. Ryan (D-N.Y.) and James C. Corman (D-Calif.) Ryan charged Nixon was trying to nullify the Supreme Court decision of 1954 which outlawed dual systems. Corman said the Nixon statement would be a test of American character and indicated he believed the President had "flunked his own test."