

MAR 29 1972

NAACP Will Fight Nixon Busing Halt

SFChronicle
Washington

Civil rights lobbyist Clarence Mitchell said yesterday that when President Nixon proposed a moratorium on forced school busing "he placed himself on the side of those who have stood in school doorways to bar black children."

If Congress approves the President's program, Mitchell said the NAACP will challenge it in the courts "before the ink is dry."

Mitchell, director of the NAACP's Washington office and its chief lobbyist, testified before the Senate Education Committee which is holding hearings on Mr. Nixon's two-way plan to prevent more court-ordered busing to integrate public schools. Mr. Nixon proposed a moratorium until June, 1973, or until Congress enacts new school desegregation standards giving busing the lowest priority, and expenditure of \$2.5 billion to upgrade inferior schools.

'BLATANT'

These proposals, said Mitchell, are "blatant products of racism" proposed by a President who has "joined forces with George Wallace."

Defending Mr. Nixon, Senator Peter Dominick (Rep-Colo.) said he did not like the "tone" of Mitchell's accusations linking Mr. Nixon with racism. "I reject your statement totally so far as it deals with the motives of the administration and what it is trying to do," said Dominick.

REPLY

"I reaffirm, reiterate and reassert it," replied Mitchell.

Twenty-nine House liberals, meanwhile, said they would support Mr. Nixon's plan to upgrade inferior schools if he would increase the expenditure from \$2.5 billion to \$6.1 billion.

They and others have criticized Mr. Nixon for proposing to use \$2.5 billion in funds already appropriated for schools, rather than advocating new expenditures to improve inferior schools.

United Press