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Actions Speak Louder Than Words - Nixon's Effect on School Desegregation

Demetri L. Morgan, University of Pennsylvania

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Nixon’s Effect on School Desegregation

Presented by: Demetri L. Morgan – Indiana University
Nixon, the Great School Desegregator?
Nixon's “Dual Scheme”

Nixon's Rhetoric
- Appease the “Silent Majority and Southern Democrats”

Nixon's Actions
- Properly live out “Law & Order” by enforcing recent civil rights rulings
Nixon’s Landslide Victory - 1972
Conducted symbolically using rhetoric, public relations campaigns, and figurative gestures.

Nixon’s Rhetoric

Advanced through Nixon’s Administrations policy statements, executive orders, and proposed and implemented cabinet policies.

Nixon’s Actions
The “Dual Scheme’s” Influence

- School Busing

- Title 1 School Funding

- Locus of School Governance
Brown to 1971: Setting the Stage for Nixon’s Educational Policies

1954 - Brown vs. Board of Education

1957 - Little Rock 9

1964 - Signing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
Brown to 1971: Setting the Stage for Nixon’s Educational Policies

1966 - Coleman Report on Education
Key Themes

- Nixon’s Idea of a Good Education
- Education & the Silent Majority
- Education & Nixon’s Southern Strategy
- Education & Nixon’s “Law & Order”
Nixon’s “Dual Scheme” on School Busing

Nixon’s Rhetoric:
- “No Busing, No Way, No How”

Nixon’s Actions:
- “School Busing Gaines ‘will not be televised’”
Nixon’s “Dual Scheme” on Title 1 funding & School Governance

Nixon’s Rhetoric

• “Money & Power for Everyone”

Nixon’s Actions

• “Real Money moves in Silence”
Conclusions – The “Duel Schemes” Implications

- America’s first wide scale experiment with racially integrated public schools.
- Lasting involvement of the Federal Government in education
- Increased complexity of an already misunderstood Presidency
Questions?
References

- *Alexander v. Holmes County Board of Education.* 396 (Supreme Court, October 29, 1969).
- *Cooper v. Aaron.* 358 (U.S. Supreme Court, 1958).
- *Green v. County School Board of New Kent County.* 391 (Supreme Court, May 27, 1968).


*Swann v. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education*. 402 (Supreme Court, April 20, 1971).


