

Senate votes to fund 1987 student loans and grants

WASHINGTON (AP) — Expressing support for an end to court-ordered school busing in desegregation cases, the Senate has voted to authorize higher education student loans and grants for the next five years.

The non-binding procedural vote on Sen. Jesse Helms' proposal to curb the power of federal judges to order school

busing came Tuesday evening before the Senate voted 93-1 to pass the higher education bill.

The higher education bill authorizes \$6.5 billion for Pell Grants, direct and guaranteed student loans and other federal programs in the 1987 fiscal year to help financially needy students attend college and graduate school.

The Senate bill cuts \$2.1 billion from the \$8.6 billion authorized in the current fiscal year and imposes an income eligibility standard for Pell Grants.

Senators voted 50-45 against tabling the amendment by Helms, R-N.C., to prohibit federal judges from ordering students to ride 15 minutes or five miles past their neighborhood school as part of racial desegregation plans.

"For 15 years, we have had this folly imposed by the courts," Helms said. "For 15 years we have had the courts trying to be a school board. I say enough is enough, and 80 percent of the black parents in this country say the same thing."

Helms, who cast the only

negative vote against the education bill, withdrew his amendment after receiving assurances from Republicans on the Judiciary Committee that a similar measure that is being blocked by opponents on the panel would be passed.

But Helms used the non-binding vote to demonstrate support for the measure.

"The U.S. Senate has spoken once more on this issue," Helms said, recalling a 1982 vote to approve a similar measure, which later died in the House.

The education bill limits Pell Grants to students whose families have annual incomes of less than \$30,000 after taxes. An estimated 35,000 students would become ineligible to receive the grants if this provi-

sion became law.

The Senate also approved on a 60-34 vote an amendment by Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole, R-Kan., to cut \$100 a year from proposed increases in maximum Pell Grants.

Under the amendment, Pell Grants would increase in five steps from the current \$2,100 to \$3,100 in 1991. The original language would have increased the grants to \$3,200 over the same period.

As part of the higher education bill, the Senate adopted language proposed by Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, to allow the sale of defaulted student loans to collection agencies, which are currently hired to seek repayment of unpaid obligations.

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Bhagwan to open a 'mystery school'

PORTLAND (AP) — Indian guru Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh wants to establish a "mystery school" at the Uruguayan estate where he's been staying since March, according to the sect's newspaper.

Rajneesh, a newspaper published in Boulder, Colo., quoted the guru as saying the school would not be a commune like the one sect members operated for four years in Oregon.

"It will live like a commune, but the people will be changing," Rajneesh was quoted as saying in the newspaper's May 20 edition. "People will be coming whenever they can manage, whenever they need. There will be a certain number of people who will be permanent to take care of all visitors, but the commune will be a continuous pilgrimage place where you learn something, where you drink something and go back to the world."

Rajneesh, 54, has been living with about 20 disciples in a rented mansion on the Atlantic coast. The self-described "rich man's guru" uses a blend of Eastern and Western methods to teach meditation as a means to enlightenment.

The Rajneeshpuram commune in central Oregon was disbanded after Rajneesh pleaded guilty to immigration charges and was ordered out of the United States in November. A few disciples will remain until the property is sold.

Rajneesh also was quoted as saying he didn't consider the demise of the Oregon commune a loss.

"Not in any way — because the way it was functioning, it was a non-ending rut," he said.

"This time, from the very beginning, only a small nucleus of people who are absolutely necessary to run the mystery school will be living with me. Everybody else will be a guest."

Rajneesh's secretary, Ma Prem Haaya, urged followers not to flock to South America to visit the guru, however.

FDA approves the use of 'miracle drug'

WASHINGTON (AP) — Interferon, the "miracle drug" of the late 1970s that delivered more disappointments than miracles, was approved for use against a rare but deadly form of cancer Wednesday, and officials said the action marked a "new age of medicine."

The Food and Drug Administration approved a form of alpha interferon — one of more than 15 possible variations — for use against a cancer known as hairy-cell leukemia, which afflicts about 2,000 to 3,000 Americans.

The announcement also

means interferon now is available for physicians to prescribe for cancer patients, whether their cancer is hairy-cell leukemia or not.

The approval for hairy-cell leukemia does not restrict how doctors choose to use the medicine. The FDA regards such decisions as the practice of medicine, beyond the scope of drug regulation.

Thus, the approval could open the door to all cancer patients, including those seeking a last chance to beat the odds for cancers that have not responded to alpha interferon. The list of cancers that interferon has not successfully treated includes the major ones — breast, lung and colon.

FDA Commissioner Frank Young, under questioning, denied the approval was based on the likelihood that the drug would be widely prescribed for other diseases. He said at a news conference that the FDA could not condone such action although it could not prevent it.

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