THE BATTALION Page 6

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United Press International HOUSTON — A federal judge failed Monday to fulfill a promise and rule whether the Justice Depart-ment can force 22 mostly white school districts surrounding the Houston Independent School District to join in one massive desegregation plan.

Judge fails to rule

on desegregation

A clerk in the court of U.S. Dis-trict Judge Robert O'Conor Jr. worked on the decision and gave no word when he would offer the written opinion he had said would be forthcoming Monday.

O'Conor was to make his ruling less than a month after the federal government intervened in a lawsuit filed originally against the HISD in 1956 to say that desegregation was a failure in the 177,218-student city district.

The HISD is 46 percent black and 28 percent Hispanic. Justice Depart-ment lawyers said the district, the sixth largest in the United States, was the clearest case of continued

segregation of races because whites moved to outlying school districts. The May 15 lawsuit was filed three

days after the Supreme Court re-jected a metropolitan-wide busing plan for Atlanta

The May 15 government suit sought to add as defendants 22 school districts, the Texas Education Agency, the city of Houston and the Harris County Department of Educa-

The Justice Department charged that the city's refusal to approve low-income public or subsidized housing outside minority neighborhoods

outside minority neighborhoods contributed to segregation. Mayor Jim McConn traveled to Washington, D.C., last week to speak with Attorney General Benja-min Civiletti personally and argue against the city's inclusion in the lowerstic wsuit

The Texas Education Agency was included because the Justice De-partment said it encourages private racial discrimination in the housing market and refuses to allow the

Houston district to expand. An HISD lawyer argued in briefs before O'Conor that although there has been no involuntary busing since 1974, there are "substantial numbers of students" who are transported voluntarily for desegregation pur-

"I really don't see that there's any need for such a lawsuit," lawyer Kelly Frels said.

In 1975, a federal judge accepted the HISD's magnet school plan, which drew students from throughout the district to several specialized schools and increased integration.

Justice Department figures show that HISD enrolls 36.6 percent of the metropolitan area's students but teaches 71.3 percent of the area's blacks and 59.6 percent of Hispanics. The lawsuit said Houston schools still are largely segregated because of "the intentional, racially discrimina-tory acts and omissions" of both the Houston district and the surrounding districts.



Hold

is memorial Librar

United Press International SAN FRANCISCO — Take heart, Americans! The United States is still the best place in the world to live.

A study of "quality of life" in 50 nations found that, despite our environmental, economic and social problems, the United States ranks first in overall

The researchers used every standard of "quality" they could identify and measure in their study. They acknowledged spiritual factors are involved in "quality of life," but excluded these because they could not figure out a way to measure and compare them. The study was prepared by Claude F. Anderson of

the Electric Power Research Institute in Palo Alto, Calif., and Ben-chieh Liu, of the Midwest Research Institute, Kansas City, Mo. In their elaborate "model" for computing quality

of life they used five main categories of human satisfaction - social, economic, health and education, environmental, and national vitality and security. There were a dozen subcategories, and each of those

was broken down into a number of factors. Every measure was given a relative "weight" based on an international public opinion survey on what people considered their most important concerns

For example, in the category of "social" quality, which accounted for 24 percent of the overall measure, the subcategories were "satisfaction of basic human needs, standard of living;" "informed citizenry with modern conveniences," and "welfare and independence.

foreign policy, particularly in the Persian Gulf, and said Ronald

Reagan could better solve world

coherent foreign policy than we have now," Kissinger told the annual con-vention of the American Association

"Every man who becomes presi-dent is aware of the importance of striving for peace and I believe Mr. Reagan would conduct a firmer,

Kissinger, who supports Reagan

"in terms of national interest" rather than as a personal choice, said under Carter there had been an erosion of

confidence in American foreign

"As long as there is a huge gap

of Petroleum Geologists.

more coherent policy.'

"I think there is a need for a more

problems.

policy

our Business.

Both positive and negative factors were weighed. A nation received a positive score for the number of acres of land per capita, but lost points if the population was concentrated in large cities. The number of motor vehicles in use per mile of road was a negative

In the 50-nation overall results, Canada ranked second, Australia third, Sweden fourth and the U.S.S.R. fifth. Next were Norway, New Zealand. Switzerland, Denmark, East Germany, Czechoslo-vakia, Japan, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands.

Countries at the bottom of the scale in quality of life were Saudi Arabia, Chile, Iraq, Iran, Lebanon, Brazil, Mexico, Jamaica and Libya. At the median were Ireland and Taiwan.

The study showed that a country's average national income per capita is not the best measure of quality of life. For example, Kuwait ranked first in gross national product per capita but was 38th in the overall ranking.

Israel ranked first in National Vitality and Security, which measured such things as military strength. international trade and capital resources. The U.S.S.R. was second, Taiwan third, Romania fourth and the United States fifth.

In environment, Australia and Argentina were ahead of the United States.

Of the five major categories, the U.S. was first only in Health and Education, which measured such things as medical care and literacy, and in the econo-mic category, which included such factors as the cost of living index in relation to gross national income.

peace.

Endorses Reagan in 'national interest'

Kissinger hits Carter policy As

doctrine and they (allies) don't be- mained the world's biggest threat to United Press International DENVER — Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger Monday critilieve it can be carried out. cized the Carter administration's

Anybody who knows anything about the Persian Gulf would tell you

had increased its military capacity 5 percent per year for the past 18 years

He said the Soviets encouraged terrorist activities. Kissinger said the Soviet Union

"The Soviets' capacity to project its forces into areas adjacent to it and far away has become one of the mos while American armed forces re-mained constant. He said Russia re-tional scene," Kissinger said.

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Pamphlet distribution not an infringement of rights

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court ruled unanimously Monday that private citizens may pass out pamphlets or distribute petitions in shopping centers without infringing on the owners' rights.

Ruling in a California case, the between American commitment and American capability, a sense of un-certainty will continue," he said. court said states may go beyond the guarantees of the federal Constitu-tion and allow such free-speech acti-vities on private property without in-"No one has accepted the Carter fringing on property rights.

The case was brought to the high court by Pruneyard Shopping Cen-ter in Santa Clara, Calif.

It appealed a California Suprem Court ruling that state law protected the activites of students solicitin signatures opposing a U.N. resolu tion on Zionism.

The state supreme court held the California Constitution protects 'speech and petitioning, reasonably exercised, in shopping centers even when the centers are privately owned.

In its Supreme Court appeal, the center's owners said this violated their federal constitutional private property rights.

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