

National

Book ban case to be heard

United Press International
WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court Tuesday agreed to de-

cide how much authority school boards have to remove books they find objectionable from school libraries.

The Supreme Court will hear an appeal by a New York school board challenging a lower court decision that ordered a trial in a dispute over the board's action to ban nine books from school courses and libraries.

The controversy began in 1975, when three school board members of the Island Trees Union Free School District No. 26, of Nassau County, attended a conference sponsored by a conservative group called People of New York United.

The three board members obtained "lists of books considered objectionable by some persons, together with excerpts from them containing the more objectionable material," Board Presi-

dent Richard Aherns said.

Several months later, the board met with two high school principals and told them to remove from libraries and courses nine books on the list described at the conference. Two other books were later added to the list.

The books were: "Slaughterhouse Five," by Kurt Vonnegut; "The Fixer," by Bernard Malamud; "Black Boy," by Richard Wright; "Soul on Ice," by Eldridge Cleaver; "The Naked Ape," by Desmond Morris; "Laughing Boy," by Oliver LaFarge; "Best Short Stories by Negro Writers," edited by Langston Hughes; "Down These Mean Streets," by Piri Thomas; "Go Ask Alice," anonymous; "A Hero Ain't Nothing But A Sandwich," by Alice Childress, and "A Reader for Writers," edited by Jerome Archer.

School Superintendent Richard Morrow objected to removing the books and persuaded

the board to establish a committee to make recommendations.

The committee suggested five books be returned to library shelves, but the board voted to return only "Black Boy" and "Laughing Boy." Several parents filed a civil rights class-action suit on behalf of pupils, challenging the ban.

A federal district judge dismissed the suit, saying previous Supreme Court rulings have declared school boards have the right to remove books they find inconsistent with local values.

But the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals reversed the first decision and ordered the district court to hold a trial on the case.

Parents opposing the board argued: "This case presents fundamental questions regarding the capacity of a school board to impose ideological and cultural orthodoxy through the control of school library materials."

**W5AC
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GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY
OCT. 15 7:30 P.M.
12TH FLOOR
O&M BLDG.

TOPIC:
Austin swapfest & Aggie Cross Communication.

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Wednesday, October 14, 1981
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