Suspend White Student Over Boycott Pamphlets

By WILSON LEWIS

Some 173,000 Chicago public school pupils stayed away from classes last Tuesday, but a 17-year-old white student missed five days — all because of the boycott.

Edward Schur, 17, 7310 N. Paulina, a senior student at all-white Sullivan High School, 6531 N. Bosworth, was suspended for five days because his activities with Chicago Area High School Friends of SNCC.

Schur told the DEFENDER that he was going to paste a boycott sticker in the school building when a Miss Stanton, Sullivan counselor, "dragged me into the office of Dr. Vandenberg, the school principal. I waited there for about one hour and 20 minutes for Vandenberg."

Schur said that after returning from his lunch period, he talked with the principal, who lectured him about defacing school property. In an interview with the DEFENDER, Mrs. Gloria K. Howes, District 2 Superintendent, said that the subject of the stickers endorsing the second school boycott was not discussed by Vandenberg.

She said that Schur "was disciplined because he was caught in the act of defacing school property. Schur planted more than one sticker, in fact, he planted several of them along the corridors," she said.

Schur was quoted as saying that "I had just posted my first sticker on the first-floor corridor wall, when Miss Stanton stopped me."

During his suspension, Schur said that he knew of several other cases of harassment by teachers against pro-boycott students. Schur mentioned that a mathematics teacher at Sullivan, Miss Straka, told her classes that any student "who stayed away from school on Feb. 25, would lose four points off his quarterly grade average."

When the students returned to their class on the 26th, Schur said, "Miss Straka went up and down the aisles and asked each student why he or she was absent on the 25th. To those who told her that they participated in Freedom Day II, she put a mark on her attendance sheet. To those who told her they were absent for other reasons, she said nothing."

Schur added that he also knew of high-ranking students belonging to the National Honor Society who were told that "action would be taken against them" if they chose to join the boycott.

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The student told the DEFENDER that he has been advised by Atty. William Cousins that one day's absence from school is not considered legal truancy. Cousins who could not be reached for comment, has also allegedly advised Schur that he does not have to remain at home during his suspension.

Schur said that a Mr. Fenn, a school truant officer, called Mrs. Schur and told her to make certain her son remain at home during his suspension.

Lawrence Landry, co-chairman of Chicago Area Friends of SNCC, told the DEFENDER, "This case demonstrates the usual neo-fascist techniques of our school board trying to intimidate people who stand up for truth and freedom.

"I personally admire the young man because he shows that people can still remain human beings experiencing what Schur has gone through.

"To remain human beings, in spite of Ben Willis' attempts to de-humanize them, demonstrates the real courage of an individual's convictions about his brother's freedom."

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