

Westport Enjoined On Vote to Recall School Board Head

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WESTPORT, Conn., March 31 —The Westport Board of Selectmen was permanently enjoined today from conducting a special recall election aimed at ousting the chairman of the school board, Mrs. Joan G. Schine, a leading figure in a controversy that began over the busing of children from Bridgeport.

Mrs. Schine became the principal target of opponents of the program, called "Project Concern," after she broke a tie in a school board vote on adopting the program in December. Some 25 Bridgeport children in grades one, two and three, most of them black, have been coming to Westport under the program since Feb. 1.

The injunction was issued in

Superior Court in Bridgeport by Judge Robert J. Testo, who ruled that the section of the Westport Town Charter governing recall elections did not apply to school board members because for educational purposes they were agents of the state and not municipal officers.

John C. Gilmore, a leader of the group seeking the recall election and a defendant in the injunction action, was out of town. Samuel M. Chambliss, a lawyer representing Mr. Gilmore, said he did not know if an appeal would be made within the 20 days allowed.

The controversy in this well-to-do residential community since Project Concern was approved has been bitter and far-ranging, sometimes with racial overtones. One faction has used such terms as "deterioration," "extravagance" and "experimentation" in its criticism of the school system.

On the other side it is asserted that a limited control program such as Project Concern is beneficial and necessary to an enlightened education.

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