TOP COURT JUNKS MARRIAGE BARS: Laws In 16 States Are Struck Down Race ...

Washington — (UPI) — The Supreme Court Monday struck down state laws prohibiting marriages between Negroes and whites. The 9-0 decision came in a Virginia case. The decision is historic and far-reaching. Fifteen other states have similar anti-miscegenation laws, however.

They ARE Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and West Virginia.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) took the issue to the Supreme Court on behalf of a white construction worker, Richard P. Loving, and his Negro wife, nates of Caroline County, Va. They were married in the District of Columbia in 1958 and returned to Virginia to live in violation of state law.

Chief Justice Earl Warren, speaking for a unanimous court, said: "We have consistently denied the constitutionality of measures which restrict the rights of citizens on account of race.

"There can be no doubt that restricting the freedom to marry solely because of racial classifications violates the central meaning of the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment." Justice Warren ruled.