

Top Court Strikes Down Anti-Miscegenation Laws

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Top Court Strikes Down Mixed Marriage Ban

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Top Court Strikes Down Anti-Miscegenation Laws

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court ended its 1967 term by declaring unanimously that state laws banning mixed racial marriages are unconstitutional.

The ruling struck down miscegenation laws in 16 states on grounds they violate one of the "basic civil rights of man, fundamental to our very existence and survival."

The court decision striking down laws prohibiting mixed marriages came in a Virginia case but it also had the effect of nullifying similar statutes in 15 other states.

In a final flurry of major decisions, the court also: — upheld the contempt of court convictions of Dr. Martin Luther King and seven other civil rights leaders for their refusal to obey a court injunction against a 1963 Birmingham, Ala., demonstration. The 5-4 decision let stand the sentence of five days in jail and a \$50 fine for King and his co-defendants.

Justice Potter Stewart said in the majority opinion that

"This court cannot hold that the petitioners were constitutionally free to ignore all the procedures of the law and carry their battle to the streets.

— Threw out as unconstitutional a New York State law which allowed court-approved electronic eavesdropping to collect evidence for use in criminal prosecutions.

— Upset a \$500,000 damage award won against the associated Press by Former Maj. Gen. Edwin A. Walker in the aftermath of the 1962 roiting at the University of Mississippi over admission of James H. Meridith. The court let stand a \$460,000 libel judgement won by Wally Butts, former University of Georgia athletic director, against the Saturday Evening Post for an article entitled "Story of a Football Fix."

— Agreed to review when the next term starts in October a case involving the Federal Power Commission's plan to regulate rates for natural gas producers on the basis of area rather than costs.

— Turned down an appeal by Gerardo A. Re and Gerard F. Re, a father-son financial team convicted in 1963 of stock fraud.

— Agreed to consider next term a case from Midland County, Tex., posing the question of whether the "one-man one-vote" principle should be extended to the grassroots level of the American electoral system. The court disposed of four cases this year involving the issue but did not touch on the one man, one vote standard.

— Rejected an appeal by Mario Savio and 564 others arrested and convicted for disturbing the peace during the stormy free speech demonstrations on the University of California campus at Berkeley.

— Ruled 5 to 4 that a union has the right to fine members who cross a picket line and work during a strike. The case came to the court as the result of fines assessed against two United Auto Worker (UAW) members who crossed the picket lines at the Alis-Chalmers Manufacturing Co., during 1959 and 1962 strikes.