

QA 27660

12400 Sand Wedge Drive
Boynton Beach, FL 33437-2064
October 6, 1997

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Docket Clerk,
U.S. DOT Dockets
Room PL-401
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Washington, D.C. 20590-0001

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
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DOCKET SECTION

OPEN LETTER to the FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
and COURTS OF ALL LEVELS;

The attorney for the Truck Driver in Florida, cited for violation of being unable to converse with the general public in ENGLISH, argues that the law is a violation of the right to Free Speech. In reply, I state that the regulation is not a violation. Rather, the entire concept of bi-lingual education is wrong. The driver's claim that his rights were violated because he took his drivers test in Spanish is ridiculous.

All of the signs regarding traffic (i.e. speed, direction, construction and/or other information, etc.) are printed in ENGLISH. Nowhere in the English speaking concept regulation is anything prohibiting the driver from speaking in his native language. He may do so freely at home, in conversation with his fellow cohorts or any one else. What the law does insist on, is that he must be able to read, understand and be able to convey his thoughts to the general public in the common language of this Country. The common language of this Country is ENGLISH. The key word in the law is common language, and not the language of the country he came from.

If this Country (THE UNITED STATES) continues in the bi-lingual concept, it will not be too many years, before we have a Tower of Babel. I believe in the Free Speech Amendment of the Constitution, but I also believe that the general public has a right to safety. The fact that a driver of a commercial vehicle such as a truck, a bus, etc., can get a license to operate such a vehicle by taking his test in Spanish, or any other language except ENGLISH, is a violation of my rights and those of millions of other residents and Citizens of these United States especially if these drivers cannot read or understand the signs of the road. Further, the insistence of the bi-lingual education is not for the good of these immigrants to this country. It only increases their separation from the general public and reduces their possibilities of improving themselves and blending in.

Rather than relax the provisions of the current Commercial Drivers License requirements, they should be stiffened. If we were to look into the increase in truck and bus accidents, the fact that the drivers are not conversant in ENGLISH, might very well be a major factor.

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The hope of untold Citizens and myself, is that County Judge Lubitz and any other Judges involved in this type of suit, dismiss the complaint that the law is unconstitutional and that the bills in the U.S. House and Senate making ENGLISH the official language of this UNITED STATES be enacted.

Respectfully



ROBERT KATZ
Former Over the
Road Truck Driver

CC: Palm Beach Post
Sun Sentinel
Senator Bob Graham
Senator Connie Mack
Representative Robert Wexler
Representative Barry Silver
Representative Suzanne Jacobs