

which the individual is free to pursue, and it cannot be restricted except for a proper governmental objective. Segregation in public education is not reasonably related to any proper governmental objective and thus it imposes on Negro children of the District of Columbia a burden that constitutes an arbitrary deprivation of their liberty in violation of the Due Process Clause.”

“In view of our decision that the Constitution prohibits the states from maintaining racially segregated public schools, it would be unthinkable that the same Constitution would impose a lesser duty on the Federal Government.”

In subsequent cases, the Court has applied its Fourteenth Amendment jurisprudence to federal legislation that contained classifications based on sex⁴⁹³ and illegitimacy,⁴⁹⁴ and that set standards of eligibility for food stamps.⁴⁹⁵ However, almost all legislation involves some degree of classification among particular categories of persons, things, or events, and, just as the Equal Protection Clause itself does not outlaw “reasonable” classifications, neither is the Due Process Clause any more intolerant of the great variety of social and economic legislation typically containing what must be arbitrary line-drawing.⁴⁹⁶ Thus, for example, the Court has sustained a law imposing greater punishment for an offense involving rights of property of the United States than for a like offense involving the rights of property of a private person.⁴⁹⁷ A veterans law that extended certain educational benefits to all veterans who had served “on active duty” and thereby excluded conscientious objectors from eligibility was held to be sustainable, its being rational for Congress to have determined that the disruption caused by military service was qualitatively and quantitatively different from that caused

⁴⁹³ *Frontiero v. Richardson*, 411 U.S. 677 (1973); *Califano v. Goldfarb*, 430 U.S. 199 (1977). *But see* *Rostker v. Goldberg*, 453 U.S. 57 (1981); *Califano v. Jobst*, 434 U.S. 47 (1977).

⁴⁹⁴ *Compare* *Jimenez v. Weinberger*, 417 U.S. 628 (1974), *with* *Mathews v. Lucas*, 427 U.S. 495 (1976).

⁴⁹⁵ *Department of Agriculture v. Murry*, 413 U.S. 508 (1973). *See also* *Department of Agriculture v. Moreno*, 413 U.S. 528 (1973).

⁴⁹⁶ *Richardson v. Belcher*, 404 U.S. 78, 81 (1971); *FCC v. Beach Communications*, 508 U.S. 307 (1993) (exemption from cable TV regulation of facilities that serve only dwelling units under common ownership); *Lyng v. Castillo*, 477 U.S. 635 (1986) (Food Stamp Act limitation of benefits to households of related persons who prepare meals together). With respect to courts and criminal legislation, *see* *Hurtado v. United States*, 410 U.S. 578 (1973); *Marshall v. United States*, 414 U.S. 417 (1974); *United States v. MacCollom*, 426 U.S. 317 (1976).

⁴⁹⁷ *Hill v. United States ex rel. Weiner*, 300 U.S. 105, 109 (1937). *See also* *District of Columbia v. Brooke*, 214 U.S. 138 (1909); *Panama R.R. v. Johnson*, 264 U.S. 375 (1924); *Detroit Bank v. United States*, 317 U.S. 329 (1943).