

CITY OF BOSTON

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Contact: Frank Tivnan, 722-4100
ex. 191

STATEMENT OF MAYOR KEVIN H. WHITE

President Ford's statement yesterday acts to impede the enforcement of the Federal Court Order to desegregate Boston's Public Schools and thus threatens the safety of our school children.

In so doing, he has jeopardized the civil and human rights of the citizens of this city, and his statements challenge the rule of law throughout this land.

The President has said:

- That he opposes the decision of the Federal Court...
- That he is reluctant to provide Federal enforcement of a Federal Court Order...
- That he is hesitant to heed the calls of help from this City to implement the law.

Yet he is willing to under-cut the credibility of Judge Garrity's Federal Court decrees...

He is willing to encourage resistance to the Law of our Nation ...

He is willing to taunt this City into becoming another Little Rock.

President Eisenhower never criticized the landmark 1954 Supreme Court Decision on desegregation. He maintained that as it was the law of the land, and the judgement of the independent Judiciary, it had to be upheld.

President Kennedy sent Federal troops to Mississippi and Alabama, at a time when integration was no more popular in the South than busing is today in the North.

In twenty years, no President has interfered with or sought to undermine the commitment of the Federal Government to the enforcement of Federal Law.

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On Monday, President Ford's Attorney General denied that a federal presence is necessary or needed to enforce a Federal Court Order.

Yesterday morning, President Ford's Deputy Attorney General sharply defined the limits on the Judge's enforcement powers and said that a request for additional Marshalls would be flatly denied.

And yesterday afternoon, President Ford himself said that he doesn't find desirable and sees no compelling need for federal intervention.

His message is clearly intended to be heard and heeded not only in Boston, but beyond this City. It is also meant for the Mayors of New York and Philadelphia and Atlanta and Cleveland and Detroit and Pittsburgh. The President is telling all of us:

"You're on your own in the implementation of Federal Court orders, unless and until there is riot and rebellion in the streets of your City."

He is telling all of us:

"Unless you can show me:

- The statistics on the number of children killed...
- The pictures of the school buses burning...
- The permanent and devastating damage to your City...

Then I shall consider public safety in the face of a Federal Court Order, strictly a local affair."

This City and her people will not accept taunts and temptations from Washington. We won't allow a child to be sacrificed to force the unpopular decision of the Executive Branch to fulfill its legal obligation.

I have accepted the responsibility to effect Judge Garrity's Order of yesterday and have called for additional law enforcement personnel from the State and the MDC.

But before this City and her people are moved into the second and final step in the Court's remedy, involving a comprehensive city-wide plan which incorporates all sections and neighborhoods of this City, we must have Federal assistance and support in guaranteeing the safety of our school children. Until the following assurances are made, I cannot effectively cooperate in the development of that plan or in the planning required for its implementation:

1. The Executive Branch of the United States Government must clarify when and under what circumstances Marshalls, regular Federal troops, and other resources will be made available to assist in implementation and enforcement of the Federal Court Order. I reject the criteria that Federal assistance is justified only when a condition of riot and rebellion exists in our streets and when local authority has collapsed.
2. The flaws and inequities in the State Plan must be corrected and redressed. The people, white and black, in affected neighborhoods, must be allowed to participate in that planning process.
3. The Federal and State Government must commit themselves to relieving the financial burden imposed upon the already overburdened taxpayers of this City due to the Court Order and the mounting costs of providing additional public safety measures.

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