



HON. LOUISE DAY HICKS



## Boston City Council

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BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02201

August 4, 1975

Hon. John J. Moakley  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Moakley:

Enclosed for your edification is a recent Wall Street Journal article by the incisive young writer, Michael Novak. His arguments against forced busing are not only brilliant and prophetic, but impossible to ignore.

Novak argues that forced busing is immoral because "it goes against the basic social principles of American life; against family, neighborhood, class, ethnic and even educational realities which are so basic they are seldom even voiced."

It appears that Novak has gone one step beyond Professor James Coleman of the University of Chicago. Dr. Coleman has merely reported that the reaction among middle-class white parents to forced busing and the effect that reaction has on black children are sufficient reasons for a second look at the efficacy of this tool of integration.

Novak has given us the cogent and logical explanation for that reaction. It is an explanation devoid of emotionalism; and in all honesty to ourselves and our responsibilities as public servants, business or spiritual leaders, we cannot refuse to consider it in any of our decisions. He foresees an embittered generation that will set the integration movement back twenty years. As a personal note, I have witnessed that bitterness; and I do not want it on my conscience as I am sure you do not.

Parents have come to me in tears because they fear that their children are becoming racists. Somehow we must put an end to this deplorable development before it is too late. We can begin by examining the social realities around us instead of relying on the assumptions of sociologists and their blind followers who would integrate through forced busing to eventually achieve resegregation.

Your comments on Novak's article would be most welcome. Perhaps through the same, we may set Boston, the Nation, and the Civil Rights Movement back on the right track.

Sincerely,

Louise Day Hicks