

December 29, 1975

[REDACTED]
Dedham, MA 02026

Dear [REDACTED]:

Thank you for contacting me to express your concern over Boston's busing situation and Judge Garrity's decision to place South Boston High under federal receivership.

I was dismayed to learn of the Garrity ruling. I have expressed my support for the appeal now being pursued by the School Committee. Additionally, I have asked my colleague, Congressman Robert Kastenmeier, Chairman of the Subcommittee on the Courts and the Administration of Justice, to hold hearings on the powers of a Federal Judge as they apply to elected local officials.

I share your concern for the future of Boston's public school system. As I stated before the House Democratic Caucus meeting several weeks ago, busing is resegregating our Boston schools, not integrating them as our social planners would like us to think.

Thanks again for taking the time to contact me. Please feel free to write to me again if I can ever be of any service.

Sincerely,

JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY
Member of Congress

██████████
DEDHAM, MASS.
02026



**FROM
THE
DESK
OF**



12/16/75

Congressman Woolley

Will you be going to
step forth and speak out about
Sandy's failure?



White Pupils' Rolls Drop A Third in Boston Busing

By JOHN KIFNER

Special to The New York Times

BOSTON, Dec. 14—The public schools here have lost at least 17,760 white students, nearly a third of the white enrollment, since court-ordered busing for school desegregation began 18 months ago.

Enrollment figures for the previous three years showed a slow, steady decline of about 3,000 white students a year, attributable to various demographic factors. The sharp acceleration in the decline started after Federal Judge W. Arthur Garrity Jr., finding the Boston school committee had deliberately maintained a segregated system, ordered busing in June 1974.

The departure of white students here is expected to be a major factor in the rapidly

growing and politically charged national debate over whether busing is leading to "white flight." At the same time, the experience here should also be evaluated in terms of purely local conditions, primarily Boston's history of parochial, ethnic neighborhoods in the decade of antidesegregation policies practiced by the elected, all-white School Committee.

As the end of the fall term approaches, Boston's second year of school desegregation presents a mixed picture.

There is continued resistance and racial hostility in the South Boston neighborhood, increased last week by Judge Garrity's order putting the high school there into "receivership." But there is a wary truce in areas troubled in the past.

There is a departure of many middle-class whites from the school system. But there is also a sense of excitement and innovation — rare in the Boston schools — among the black and white parents, children and teachers who have committed themselves to the new "magnet schools."

But the most striking development has been the drop in white enrollment, which more than accounts for an over-all enrollment decrease from 93,647 in the fall of 1973 to 76,461 in the current semester.

Private antidesegregation academies, following a Southern pattern, have been established in some white neighborhoods for white students. Many more have enrolled in Roman

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White Pupils' Rolls Off Since Boston Began Busing

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Catholic parochial schools in the city and nearby suburbs. Some have gone to other established private schools. A number have dropped out of school.

The change has shifted what had been a predominantly white school system to one in which the majority is now non-white.

Significantly, the greatest decrease in the white enrollment and the greatest shift in percentage is the lower, younger grades.

In the fall of 1973, there were 53,593 white students in the kindergarten through 12th grade, according to the Boston School Committee's figures. There were 62,014 white students in 1970, 59,390 in 1971 and 56,893 in 1972.

In the fall of 1974, with the first stage of a desegregation plan that primarily affected the white South Boston and Hyde Park areas and the black Roxbury and Mattapan neighborhoods, the white enrollment fell to 44,957.

Last fall, with the citywide desegregation plan in effect, the white enrollment dropped to 36,243.

The black school enrollment, according to the school department figures, has declined slightly over these years, going from 31,963 in 1973 to 31,737 in 1974 and to 31,092 today.

In addition, the number of Hispanic, Asian and American Indian students has shown small, steady gains and today stands at 9,126, up from 8,091 in 1973.

In the high schools, whites are still in a slim majority, with 10,071 white students and 9,674 nonwhites. In the middle schools, there are 9,366 non-white students and 8,099 whites. In the elementary schools, there are 16,863 nonwhites and 12,102 whites.

A Question About Figures

There are some difficulties with the figures, which represent the school departments' projected enrollment. A number of sources say that, in the past, the over-all enrollment figures have been regularly inflated to get more Federal money.

However, while the projected enrollment for grades 1-12 (kindergarten students are not affected) is 72,201, only 66,175 have gone to school at least once.

This would appear to indicate that the rate of white departure might be more than the school department's projected enrollment figures show.

In addition, it appears that the unrelenting tension and hostility, particularly at South Boston High School, are driv-

ing many black students to transfer or drop out of school. While the projected black enrollment at the high school's main building was 432 at the beginning of the year, no where near this number has ever attended, and, frequently of late, there have only been a few more than 100 blacks.

For whites in Boston, thus far, the avoidance of desegregation appears to have meant leaving the public school system rather than "white flight" from the city's neighborhoods.

At least four private, neighborhood academies have been set up. State education officials have complained that the schools are unaccredited and that students attending them should thus be considered truant. So far, however, local

school officials have taken no action.

Some 400 students are enrolled in the South Boston Heights Academy, a project of the neighborhood's antibusing forces. One Sunday last fall, South Boston residents had an open house tour of the neat rooms with the students' work pinned to the walls and vowed continued defiance of the busing court order.

An examination of the school attendance pattern shows there were very few whites attending a number of elementary schools in white middle class areas of the city, such as West Roxbury, traditionally the home of, among others, successful upper level civil servants.

Despite an admonition last year by Humberto Cardinal Me-

dieros, Archbishop of Boston, that the Catholic school system will be a "refuge" for those fleeing desegregation, many of these middle class parents, according to a number of sources, are sending their children to parochial schools in the area or in nearby well-to-do suburbs.

Similarly, many of the working class white parents in the Charlestown section are sending their children over the border into parochial schools—whose enrollment had been on the decline—in the blue collar suburbs of Everett, Chelsea, Revere and Somerville. Last year, there were enough South Boston students at Newman Prep, a Catholic high school in downtown Boston, to hold their own junior prom.