

TESTIMONY

of

CONGRESSMAN
JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY
(D - BOSTON)

before

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
UNITED STATES SENATE

Wednesday, October 29, 1975

MR. CHAIRMAN, THE CITY OF BOSTON'S POPULATION IS 81% WHITE AND 19% NON-WHITE.

TEN YEARS AGO, BOSTON'S SCHOOL SYSTEM WAS 23% NON-WHITE. TWO YEARS AGO, BOSTON'S SCHOOL SYSTEM WAS 37% NON-WHITE. TODAY, EXCLUDING EAST BOSTON WHERE COURT-ORDERED BUSING HAS NOT TAKEN PLACE, BOSTON'S PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM IS 56% NON-WHITE.

IN AN 81% WHITE CITY, THE NON-WHITE STUDENT PERCENTAGE IS 56%... AND THAT NON-WHITE PERCENTAGE IS INCREASING DAILY.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LISTEN TO THESE "OFFICIAL" FIGURES.

IN 1965, FROM KINDERGARTEN THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL, BOSTON'S SCHOOLS INCLUDED 71,000 WHITE STUDENTS.

IN 1973, BOSTON'S SCHOOLS INCLUDED 61,000 WHITE STUDENTS.

TODAY, BOSTON'S SCHOOLS INCLUDE 35,000 WHITE STUDENTS.

IN TWO YEARS, WHITE STUDENT ENROLLMENT IN BOSTON'S SCHOOLS, ACCORDING TO "OFFICIAL" FIGURES, HAS DROPPED BY 26,000 STUDENTS.

UNOFFICIALLY, AS A GAO AUDIT REQUESTED BY MY COLLEAGUE, REPRESENTATIVE BURKE, WILL SOON BEAR OUT, WHITE STUDENT ENROLLMENT BETWEEN 1973 AND 1975 HAS DROPPED BY AT LEAST 30,000 STUDENTS OR 50%.

THE RESULTS OF ALL THIS BEAR REPEATING: IN AN 81% WHITE CITY, THE NON-WHITE STUDENT PERCENTAGE IS 56% - AND THAT

NON-WHITE PERCENTAGE IS INCREASING DAILY.

MR. CHAIRMAN, I REGRET TO REPORT THAT RESEGREGATION IS A REALITY IN OUR BOSTON SCHOOLS.

SO-CALLED RACIAL BALANCING HAS LED TO RACIAL IMBALANCING
SO-CALLED DESEGREGATION HAS LED TO RESEGREGATION.

IN SHORT, BUSING TO ACHIEVE RACIAL BALANCE HAS HAD AN OPPOSITE EFFECT. BEFORE COURT-ORDERED BUSING 61 OUT OF 202 (OR 30% OF BOSTON'S SCHOOLS) WERE RACIALLY IMBALANCED. TODAY, 115 OUT OF 165 (OR 70% OF BOSTON'S SCHOOLS) ARE RACIALLY IMBALANCED.

THE PARENTS OF BOSTON DESERVE MORE THAN ANGUISH, FRUSTRATION, AND UNCERTAINTY OVER THEIR CHILDREN'S PHYSICAL AND EDUCATIONAL WELL-BEING.

THE CHILDREN OF BOSTON DESERVE MORE THAN A LIFE FILLED WITH METAL DETECTORS, RIOT SQUADS, AND RACIAL TENSION.

IN VIETNAM, WE SAW THE FOOLHARDINESS OF DESTROYING CITIES IN ORDER TO SAVE THEM. HOW MUCH LONGER WILL WE DESTROY SCHOOL SYSTEMS SUCH AS BOSTON'S IN THE NAME OF SAVING THEM?

IN MY OWN SOUTH BOSTON, THE HIGH SCHOOL I ATTENDED IS NOW THREATENED WITH CLOSING. SOME OF THE SOCIAL PLANNERS APPARENTLY FEEL THAT IF THEY CAN'T DO AWAY WITH THE

NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL SYSTEM, MAYBE THEY SHOULD JUST DO AWAY WITH THE NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOLS.

ONE DOES NOT HAVE TO BE A SUPREME COURT JUSTICE TO KNOW THAT THE ONLY SURE WAY TO STOP FORCED BUSING IS TO PASS A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

TO THOSE WHO BALK AT SUPPORTING A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT, I SAY ... LOOK AT WHAT IS REALLY HAPPENING IN AMERICA ... AND YOU WILL SEE ... THAT THE ONLY SURE WAY TO SAVE THE 14TH AMENDMENT'S GUARANTEE OF "EQUAL PROTECTION UNDER THE LAWS" AND REVERSE PERMANENT RESEGREGATION IN OUR NATION'S CITIES ... IS TO PASS A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT THAT WILL FORBID BUSING OUR CHILDREN TO ACHIEVE RACIAL BALANCE.