

*Mayor White
For info
J. Holt*



308 BOYLSTON STREET, BOSTON, MASS. 02116

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Editor
BOSTON GLOBE

MAYOR'S OFFICE

Dear Sir,

I have said publicly for some years now that schooling should not be compulsory, and that if children have to go to school they should be able to go to whatever school they want. If the compulsory integration plan before us was a move in that direction, I would be for it. If the people of South Boston were fighting only for the right of their children to attend schools of their choice, I'd be for them. But they are not, and I am not.

What they are really trying to do is put up in South Boston the equivalent of the kind of sign that used to be seen in some towns in the South: "Nigger, don't let the sun set on you in this town." They are trying to say that the schools and streets of South Boston are private property, that they belong only to the people of South Boston, and that these people have the right by any means, including force and the threat of force, to keep anyone out they don't happen to like.

In acting as they are, the people and the community of South Boston are in effect a conspiracy to break the law, and a much more fundamental law than any dealing with schools. This is the law that says that any law-abiding person has a right to full access to the streets and public places of this country, and to move freely and safely in them, and to make any use of them that others may lawfully make. In attacking this principle, the people and community of South Boston are undermining the very foundations of the law and order they tell us they believe in.

If the people of South Boston (and other communities) make clear that all persons, young or old, rich or poor, black or white, are welcome in the streets and schools and public places of their community, and that their safety will be guaranteed and protected as much as if they were residents, and if they support the right of all children, rich or poor, black or white, to go to schools of their choice, I will support them in any and every way I can. Until then, I oppose their lawlessness, and urge our public officials not to give in to it.

Sincerely,