

Sept 7, 54

Mrs. [redacted]  
[redacted]  
Mattapan, Massachusetts

Judge W. Arthur Garrity Jr.  
1525 Post Office Building  
Boston, Massachusetts

Judge Garrity,

Recently you "ruled" that because a minority group of people live in a certain part of a city the children of that group suffer from a lack of quality education. That may not be the exact way it is written, but in effect that is what the ruling indicates.

I live in an integrated neighborhood. My son will, by going to his neighborhood school, attend an integrated school. A naturally integrated school. He will be going to a neighborhood school until he graduates from high school and even if the President himself ordered me to send him elsewhere I would voluntarily disobey his direct order.

My son has the right to a good education. If the question is quality why not improve the schools instead of disrupting the lives of thousands of American families? You talk about minority groups not getting a quality education for their children. Are they getting one now? Do police and detectives in halls of our high schools quaranty quality? Black and white teenagers are only being forced on each other and as a result are only learning how to hate someone because of the color of their skin. Are you as a man, not a judge, able to live with the fact that due to your ruling this is happening in our schools?

I have two younger sisters both attending [redacted] High School. I and my husband are both graduates of [redacted] High School. It makes me sick to see what is happening to a school that was once one of the best schools in the city of Boston. Because of the situation at the school my mother is under a doctors care and both of my sisters are petrified to attend classes. This is quality.

I agree that every child have the opportunity of a quality education but not at the expense of others. I do not believe that forced bussing is the answer. Offer the good teachers a higher salary to go into high risk neighborhoods, have and offer an open enrollment policy, tear down old schools and build new ones but don't order parents to send their children out of the neighborhoods they live in. It makes no difference to me if my son is the only white child in an all black classroom so long as he learns his lessons.

I can't believe that in the United States of America we are being ordered, as if we lived in a Communist State, what to do with our own flesh and blood. I have the same rights as people in a minority group but by your ruling I am losing my rights. I challenge your ability to take those rights away from me and to take away my sons right to a free quality education. If he can't get it here our family will become one of the hundreds of families to migrate out of the city, the state, and if need be out of the country in order to assure us of our freedom to raise our family in peace. Imagine, having to move from the great country of the United States to be free from political rule!!!

Sincerely,  
[redacted]