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December 4, 1975

Judge W. Arthur Garrity  
Federal Court House  
Boston, Massachusetts

Dear Sir:

The enclosed article appeared in the Washington Star on December 2nd. I do not know you but have a great deal of respect and admiration for Mary McGory and her ability to recognize and put in proper perspective the crucial decisions of the times.

Having lived here in Washington, D. C. for fifteen years and observing the changes that have taken place because a few people had enough guts to stand up for what is right, I commend you for your tenacity and legal judgment. Your quote that Ms. McGory carried in her column is so to the point.

That fact alone indicates to me that the demonstrations in the main are of a racist motivation, not only in Boston but elsewhere also.

May your decisions and foresightedness be as rewarding to you as they are to we who believe that quality education includes knowing one's fellow man and that this must be accomplished despite the biases of a few.

Sincerely,

Daniel S. Bedell  
Legislative Representative

DSB:bb



West Star 12-7-75

# Mary McGroary

## Ugliness in Boston Focuses on Garrity

BOSTON — The Federal judge who made the Boston school desegregation decision and wrote the busing plans came into the courtroom at a clip and bounded up the steps to the bench.

W. Arthur Garrity Jr. is hated in South Boston — not so much as Teddy Kennedy, "who's one of us and should know better." But hated enough to have his name chalked on G Street with an expletive, right beside a lamp-post which has "NIGGER" painted in black down its length. And hated enough to be guarded around the clock, at home and at work.

His honor is tall, lean, balding. He has a benevolent and alert expression. With the lawyers arguing on both sides of the question of whether to close down South Boston High School, he was humorous, pleasant and conversational, obviously no courtroom martinet.

"He doesn't seem like a Hitler," said a South Boston matron, who spends her days manning the telephones at the Neighborhood Information Center, which fires the resistance. "He's just out of touch."

BUT THE JUDGE seems to be entirely in touch with the ugliness at South Boston Heights and to understand the depth and the source of the working-class rage he has unleashed in a community that the inhabitants regard as a paradise to which no strangers should be admitted.

Young Eric Van Loon, the lawyer representing the black parents and students who want the school doors closed, told the judge that if the situation outside is better — last

### Point of View

year's screaming mobs and rock-throwers are gone — the situation inside is worse. He had presented black students who testified they had been subjected to racial slurs, insults, threats, and discrimination from white teachers and students.

Lawyers represented variously the mayor, the teachers union, the State Board of Education, Home and School Association, school administrators and faculty members cited as having generated racial incidents.

None of the groups had done anything to help. But all of them know that the word around town is that if South Boston is "punished as a community," as one of them put it, there will be hell to pay.

Only one used the word "racist," and that was to deny that his client was one. A black student had testified that the football coach, urging team members not to join a post-game melee, told them, "We will get the niggers in school tomorrow."

THE LAWYERS all agreed, while refuting the incidents, that the situation was not good. But they said it had improved over last year, when a white student was stabbed and the mayor had called for the closing of the school. They all leaned heavily on the headmaster's claim that "teaching and learning are going on."

The judge was told that "time and patience" would do their work.

One opposing lawyer contended that the faculty refusal to meet with the Citywide Coordinating Committee, a biracial trouble-shooting team, was simply based on teachers' resistance to any program that is not specific. They just couldn't accept something as ethereal as that," he explained.

The judge observed dryly that the only plan he was aware of was a simple one to get the blacks and whites together in equal numbers "just so they could address each other."

Under the pressure of the hearings, the week before, the faculty had reconsidered its refusal.

The judge suddenly made a remark that indicated his understanding that something more than local pride is involved in Southie's intransigence.

"A FACTOR that sometimes seems to be lost sight of in the bitter opposition to the plan at the high school level," he said, "is that 100 percent of the forced busing is of blacks and other minorities. There is not a single instance of forced busing of a white high-school student from South Boston."

At the South Boston Neighborhood Information Center, the voice says whites there are not prejudiced, don't hate blacks who have invaded their all-white heaven.

If that is the case, why is "Niggers Club" chalked on the wall of the fortress-like school? Or why, all through the neighborhood, are there signs like "Zulus go home" or "Niggers Go Back to Africa?"

The whites say it's just that "all the fun has been taken out of high school" for their children, with 90 state troopers on guard and 45 aides watching them.

It can't be much fun for the blacks either, but they don't count — except, of course, with Judge Garrity.



JUDGE W. ARTHUR GARRITY  
Embattled over busing