“VERY QUIET DAY, VAGUE TENSION”: DIGITIZING AND SHARING THE STORIES OF SCHOOL DESEGREGATION AND BUSING IN BOSTON

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DIGITIZING AND SHARING THE STORIES OF SCHOOL DESEGREGATION AND BUSING IN BOSTON

• Archives, Social Justice, and the Boston Schools case ...
  – Traditional narratives vs. personal, complex histories
  – Status quo vs. “marginalized and silenced” voices
  – Centering social justice and activist narratives

All photographs copyright Spencer Grant, Boston Public Library.
Mosaic records and publication, 1980-1989
W. Arthur Garrity, Jr. chambers papers on the Boston Schools Desegregation Case, 1972-1997

Judge W. Arthur Garrity signing the deed of gift for his chamber papers with Chancellor Sherry Penney at UMass Boston, 1998
Correspondence, 1973-1994
W. Arthur Garrity, Jr. chambers papers on the Boston Schools Desegregation Case, 1972-1997

Politicians: Letters, Speeches, etc., 1974-1985
Citywide Coordinating Council: Observer Reports, 9/8/75-5/28/76
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• **Next steps ...**
  – Continue working with Citywide Coordinating Council observer reports
  – Explore ways to use digitized materials as part of archival and research instruction program at UMass Boston
  – Discover new ways to engage with students and researchers
  – Investigate methods of maintaining contextual information about digitized materials
W. Arthur Garrity, Jr. chambers papers on the Boston Schools Desegregation Case, 1972-1997

In reporting incidents:

- **Answer:** WHAT happened?
- **WHO was involved?**
- **WHERE did it happen?**
- **WHEN did it happen?**
- **WHY, in your observation, did it happen?**

Incident report:

Very quiet day, vague tension.

A black aide said he escorted 3 black basketball players (J.F., N.K., P.B.) to the Spirits banquet at the Kennedy Center in Chinatown. I asked him what happened. He said, "I don't know," but that he had seen him in the yearbook picture with the names of the three students, with many practices and games, and he thought that the principal had something to do with it. He is the same principal who was involved in the 1972-1973 situation.

Also, a white student said that there was a group of 3 students who were waiting to use the administration to discuss the situation. They were upset and wanted to know what was going on. They were not able to use the administration to discuss the situation. The principal had something to do with it. He is the same principal who was involved in the 1972-1973 situation.

No minority students attended the press.

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CONSENT SHEET:

I just saw something here, I have never seen before in S. Boston. In the lunchroom study hall, blacks, whites, and jews, sitting at the same table, talking normally. When they got together, they lifted others, still talked as if like friends. In reality, they despised each other, but very encouraging. Apparently taken as normally all.

Talked to one of the white parent council members. Against having personally hit and not interested in making school work. Says South Bostonians are always been crazy. When he was a kid in Boston, he wasn’t allowed to go to South Boston (for segregation).

Separates are mostly disappeared, being a partially deserted school.

Very relaxed atmosphere.

Some mixing in classrooms. Still not prominent, but whites and blacks do sit next to each other. No total separation apparent. Only supported classes that history, very few blacks in history. Trouble today, beyond the usual for my high school, would be a great surprise.

Unbelievable I would find Hyde Park a traditionally white high school, yet I sat there in South Boston. First big compromise, Hyde Park is a joy.