

From: Phyllis Ryan
Press Representative
Freedom Vigil

For Release:
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At 1:15 P.M.

This is the statement of the Reverend Vernon Carter:

At the beginning of the Freedom Vigil, 114 days ago, I expressed belief in love and prayer as vehicles for making social change. The signing today of a bill outlawing racial imbalance in the public schools of Massachusetts vindicates this prediction. At the ending of this vigil I want only to say thanks be to God.

For this major step forward toward equality for all, congratulations are due:

- to Governor John A. Volpe for his courage in being the first governor in the United States to propose that racial imbalance be outlawed by legislation, and for the bipartisan cooperation that marked the conduct of the Governor and Lt. Gov. Elliot Richardson throughout the bill's journey from an idea to a law;
- to House Speaker John Davoren and Senate President Maurice Donahue for their unfaltering leadership in bringing a good bill through a stormy voyage;
- to Senator Beryl Cohen for his drafting of the legislation and his persuasive persistence in preventing its death;
- to Representative Royal Bolling for his vision in proposing last year a legislative solution to the imbalance problem;

.... to the members of the Massachusetts State Legislature
for casting the decisive votes that made this bill
law;

.... to the civil rights workers, clergy, lawyers, parents,
participants in the Freedom Vigil -- particularly the
wonderful, faithful young people --; and finally

.... to all the people of the Commonwealth who can feel
the pride of leadership in Massachusetts being the
first State in the Union to pass such a law,
my congratulations!