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## Moakley Tells Congress: Stop The Busing Now



**Congressman Joe Moakley (D-South Boston) and Edith Green (D-Oregon) discussing anti-busing legislation scheduled for next week. The two conferred prior to Moakley's strongly-worded statement to his fellow congressmen opposing mandatory busing. Green, former Chairman of the Select Committee on Education and the leading Congressional opponent of busing, welcomed Moakley's assistance.**

Next week the Elementary and Secondary Education Act Amendments will reach the floor of Congress. An attempt to amend that bill will be the most decisive test this year for busing foes in Washington.

During general debate Tuesday, Congressman Moakley stated the case of busing opponents in the following remarks:

"Mr. Speaker, if someone wanted to put a highway, a high-rise, or even a Jack-In-The-Box in your neighborhood, your state or local government would surely grant you and your neighbors a say in the matter.

"And, if a majority of your neighbors objected to such a project, that project would be abandoned. Such is the democratic tradition.

"Mr. Speaker, because of a law passed by Congress, building developers must now draw up an environmental impact statement before being allowed to lay the first brick of a

construction project.

"This environmental impact statement must show that no significant harm to the physical landscape or ecology of the neighborhood involved would result from construction of the proposed building. Sometimes, hundreds or thousands of dollars are spent on these environmental impact statements. And all this before the first brick may be laid.

"Why then is the question of the location of our children's education handled differently?

"Why then do we not take the same rational, careful and sensitive approach when it comes to "people projects"?

"Why don't those who want to implement plans that involve people have to first prepare a social impact statement?

"Why don't they have to offer social impact statements that show that their "people project" will not harm the human landscape and ecology of the neighborhood involved?

"Why, Mr. Speaker, do we seem to place a greater value on those things created by man than we do on those things created by God?

"Mr. Speaker, next week the House of Representatives has another opportunity to legislate an end to forced busing in America. We must not fail. And, for a reason I believe deserves the support of every Congressman in this chamber.

"Attempting to achieve desegregation through forced busing will lead only to even greater and more permanent resegregation, not the meaningful, integrated, and equal educational opportunity we seek for our children.

"In my own city of Boston, implementation of forced busing could lead counterproductively to an 80% non-white public school system by 1984.

"In the past 8 years alone, Boston's non-white public school population rose from 23% to 38.7%. In the *United States vs. Indianapolis*, an August, 1971 desegregation case, the court pointed out that when the percentage of black pupils in a given school approaches 40, the white exodus becomes accelerated and irreversible.

"When the federal judge made this finding, Indianapolis' public schools were only 8/10 of a percentage point more filled with black pupils than are Boston's right now. And that's without court-ordered busing.

"In San Francisco, after court-ordered busing, there was a 13 percent drop in white student population in one year. Interestingly, pro-busing advocates had argued that there would be only a 3 percent drop.

"In Norfolk, Virginia, Court-imposed busing brought a drop of 20%. In Pasadena, California, there was a two year drop of 22 percent.

"Ironically enough, if, as it seems probable, it is the somewhat better-off and more mobile who leave the public school system when busing is imposed, the already virtually negligible effect on the achievement of black children will be even further reduced.

"The danger of resegregation is real. Last year, both the federal district and appeals courts hearing the judges admitted freely that the Detroit Plan (such as is now proposed

for Boston) would lead to a single, segregated non-white Detroit school system in a state which is 87% white and 13% black.

"Mr. Speaker, recently the voters of Durham, New Hampshire voted to keep out the proposed Onassis oil refinery. Because of the energy crisis, the Durham decision affected every New Englander. But the proposed refinery would have affected the people of Durham most of all.

"So the people of Durham made their decision, and the rest of us, whether we agree or disagree with the result, must accept that decision and adapt accordingly. That is the democratic way.

"Mr. Speaker, I think the people of Boston should have the same rights as the people of Durham.

"The people of Boston do not want forced busing. That is their feeling. And, if they are given the chance to register that feeling through the political process, that will be their decision.

"And the rest of the country, whether they agree or disagree with the people of Boston, should respect their right to decide upon a matter that affects them most directly.

"To those who favor forced busing, I ask you to reconsider where your action would lead. I ask that you recognize that desegregation through forced busing will lead to greater and more permanent resegregation. Obviously, this would be counterproductive.

"To those who intend to join me next week in attempting again to legislate an end to forced busing, I urge you to stand firm in your belief that every man and woman in America has at least the same right to be heard over the location of his child's education as they do to be heard over the location of a proposed hamburger stand."