

For Immediate Release:

May 21, 1970

Statement of Senator John J. Moakley (D-So. Boston)  
in announcing his candidacy for Congress of the  
United States (9th-Cong. District).

I AM A CANDIDATE FOR THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS FROM THE NINTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT.

SPEAKER McCORMACK'S UNEXPECTED RETIREMENT WAS A SHOCK TO ME AND I AM SURE TO ALL OF THOSE WHOM HE SO LOYALLY SERVED.

HIS CAREER, RANGING OVER 42 YEARS CANNOT BE MATCHED BY MANY MEN, EITHER IN ITS QUALITY OR IN ITS LENGTH OF SERVICE. DURING HIS CAREER THIS NATION WORKED ITS WAY OUT OF A MASSIVE ECONOMIC DEPRESSION, FOUGHT TWO BLOODY WARS, AND TODAY STANDS AS THE RICHEST AND MOST POWERFUL NATION AMONG NATIONS. FOR THIS WE OWE JOHN W. McCORMACK OUR DEEPEST RESPECT, GRATITUDE, AND APPRECIATION.

HE HAS DONE MASSACHUSETTS AND THE NATION PROUD.

BUT TODAY THERE ARE MORE CHALLENGES BEFORE US. I AM ANNOUNCING MY CANDIDACY IN THE MIDST OF ONE OF THIS NATION'S MOST TURBULENT PERIODS, WHEN THE FORCES FOR CHANGE ARE ASKING TO BE HEARD.

WE ARE A NATION BOTH PHYSICALLY AND EMOTIONALLY BURDENED BY THE LONG UNATTENDED NEEDS OF OUR OWN PEOPLE. BOTH YOUNG AND OLD TODAY SUFFER FROM THE COMPASSION FATIGUE BROUGHT ON BY A LINGERING FOREIGN WAR, WHERE THE GOALS ARE STILL UNDEFINED IN THE MINDS OF MANY OF OUR CITIZENS. WE HAVE BECOME THE VICTIMS OF RHETORIC OVERKILL BY OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS AT A TIME WHEN ACTIONS ARE SO DESPERATELY NEEDED.

THE PRESENT MOOD OF THIS NATION AND OF OUR OWN CITY OF BOSTON IS NOT DIFFICULT TO COMPREHEND. THE PEOPLE BOTH YOUNG AND OLD ARE SAYING THAT OUR NATIONAL PRIORITIES MUST BE RE- DIRECTED TOWARD OUR OWN PEOPLE--FOR OUR OWN WELL-BEING.

MY EXPERIENCE AS AN URBAN LEGISLATOR, AND AS CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON URBAN AFFAIRS, HAS REAFFIRMED MY BELIEF THAT THESE CHALLENGES CANNOT POSSIBLY BE MET ON THE STATE LEVEL, - NO MATTER HOW HARD WE TRY OR HOW DELIGENT WE MAY BE.

IN OUR CITIES, POLLUTION IS NEARLY INTOLERABLE, HOUSING IS CRITICALLY LACKING, MEDICAL CARE IS INADEQUATE AND TOO COSTLY, AND EDUCATION IS GROWING STEADILY MORE UNSATISFACTORY.

ONLY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT REDIRECTING ITS FINANCIAL RESOURCES CAN SOLVE THESE PROBLEMS. THE LEADERSHIP IS THEIRS FOR THE TAKING- THEY HAVE NOT MET THE CHALLENGE.

I WANT THAT OPPORTUNITY TO BRING TO THE CONGRESS MY STATE EXPERIENCE IN THE URBAN PROBLEMS OF HOUSING, TRANSPORTATION, POLLUTION AND RECREATION.

MY STATE RECORD SPEAKS FOR ITSELF.

I SHALL WORK HARD FOR THIS NOMINATION. I WILL OFFER MYSELF AS A MAN WHO WILL LISTEN AND WHO WILL BE RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF ALL OF OUR PEOPLE.

WHAT THE RACE SHOWED:

A) SOCIOLOGICALLY

B) PERSONALITIES

A) SOCIOLOGICALLY

OUR CITY, AS WELL AS OTHER URBAN CENTERS, ARE REPRESENTED BY THREE POLITICAL SPECTRUMS. THE ONES TO THE RIGHT AND LEFT, AS IN THIS RACE, SELL FEAR RATHER THAN HOPE AND REPRESENT MINORITY INTERESTS. MY CANDIDACY REPRESENTED A MIDDLE GROUND, IT REPRESENTED PEOPLE WHO SEE A FUTURE FOR URBAN LIVING, WHO WISH TO WORK TOGETHER TO POSITIVELY UPGRADE THE QUALITY OF CITY LIFE. ALTHOUGH IN THIS RACE, THIS POSITION ALSO REPRESENTED A MINORITY, I SINCERELY BELIEVE THAT SUCH IS NOT THE FACT.

THE REASON FOR THIS IS BASED UPON THE POLITICAL REALITY THAT RECOGNITION FACTOR IS A VERY IMPORTANT FACET. MY TOTALS IN THE HIGH DORCHESTER WARDS AND IN JAMAICA PLAIN, AREAS THAT I HAD NEVER RUN BEFORE, WERE HIGHLY ENCOURAGING. THESE TOTALS REPRESENT A FUTURE BASE UPON WHICH MYSELF OR ANY CANDIDATE THAT CAN PRESENT A POSITIVE PROGRAM TO ALL SEGMENTS OF OUR CITY CAN BUILD UPON.