NEWSRELEASE

From Congressman Joe Moakley. 9th District, Massachusett

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



MOAKLEY QUESTIONS GARRITY'S DECISION

Congressman Joe Moakley (D.-Mass.) today announced that he is scheduled to meet with the Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Courts, Congressman Robert Kastenmeier (D.-Wis.), today regarding the scope of powers of a Federal Judge, with particular emphasis on a Judge's powers over elected officials.

Moakley explained that his meeting is a direct result of the decision last Tuesday by U. S. District Court Judge W. Arthur Garrity to put South Boston High School under a court-appointed receivership. "I am also extremely concerned," the Congressman said, "about the Judge stripping the elected school committee of most of its power over desegregation matters by establishing independent departments to oversee the situation."

He expresses dismay as well about Judge Garrity's order to have Headmaster William J. Reid, his entire administrative staff, and football coach Arthur Perdigao transferred.

"Our country is a democracy and is ruled by elected officials," Moakley stated. "Judge Garrity is ruling in a dictatorial fashion," he continued. It is the Congressman's view that Garrity has overstepped his bounds by placing control of the school in the hands of an outside authority.

"The Judge has overriden elected officials," Moakley declared. He explained that this precedent will await a ruling by the United States Supreme Court.

In the meantime, the Congressman is currently exploring the power of the legislative branch regarding the decisions made by Judge Garrity.