

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Great and General Court

Massachusetts Black Caucus

State House, Boston 02133



REPS.  
ROYAL BOLLING, JR.  
15th SUFFOLK DISTRICT  
DORIS BUNTE  
9th SUFFOLK DISTRICT  
ROBERT L. FORTES  
16th SUFFOLK DISTRICT  
MARY GOODE  
10th SUFFOLK DISTRICT  
RAYMOND JORDAN  
13th HAMPDEN DISTRICT  
MELVIN H. KING  
4th SUFFOLK DISTRICT  
SEN.  
BILL OWENS  
2nd SUFFOLK DISTRICT

Tel. 727-5029  
727-2101

April 20, 1976

The Honorable John Joseph Moakley  
Representative in Congress  
238 Cannon Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Moakley,

On April 5, 1976, Theodore Landsmark, a Black Attorney, who directs the Contractors Association of Boston, was brutally beaten and subsequently hospitalized. This assault was performed on the plaza of Boston City Hall by a group of white youths, truant from Boston public high schools, who had just staged an anti-bussing demonstration in the City Council Chambers, at the invitation of City Council President Louise Day Hicks.

Attached is a copy of an article from the morning edition of the April 7th Boston Globe, wherein J. Stanley Pottinger, Assistant Attorney General and Chief of the Justice Department Civil Rights Division, is quoted as saying, "... (this) incident was one of a few, and it was not part of a pattern of violence."

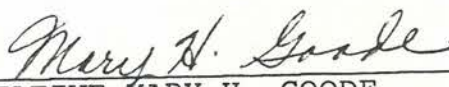
The Massachusetts Black Legislative Caucus and Boston's Black Community state that the Ted Landsmark incident is only one in a series of many racist assaults by white youths on Blacks and Third World peoples in Boston. The Massachusetts Black Caucus has documented over the past twelve months many cases of Blacks who were victims of physical assault by whites, and more often than not, white youths were the assailants. Further, these white youths have been agitated and encouraged by white adults, R.O.A.R., and certain Boston City Councilors, School Committee persons and State Legislators.

We demand:

1. That Attorney General Francis X. Bellotti and U.S. Attorney General Levi conduct immediate investigations into the roles of these Boston City Councilors, School Committee persons and State Legislators who are inciting young people to mob violence; and
2. That, given the City of Boston's denial of civil rights and access to resources to people of color, the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation must see to it that federal funds be withheld immediately until it is established that a viable program has been created by Boston City Officials that guarantees access to all.

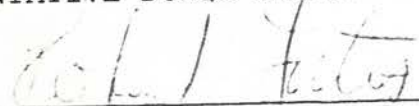
Your immediate attention to our concerns is warranted.


Sincerely,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
REPRESENTATIVE MARY H. GOODE  
CHAIRPERSON


  
\_\_\_\_\_  
REPRESENTATIVE ROYAL BOLLING, JR.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
REPRESENTATIVE DORIS BUNTE

  
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REPRESENTATIVE ROBERT FORTES

  
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REPRESENTATIVE RAYMOND JORDAN

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
REPRESENTATIVE MELVIN KING

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
SENATOR WILLIAM OWENS

JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY  
25th DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS  
COMMITTEE ON RULES

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

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7 May 1976

Massachusetts Black Legislative Caucus  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Great and General Court  
State House  
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Dear Caucus Members:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the growing climate of racial violence in Boston. I fully share your anguish over the situation in our City today. All of us have lived in Boston for many years, most of us all our lives. How could we help but feel anger and sorrow at what has happened to Boston?

Today Boston is divided into angry and frightened communities. A businessman walking to an appointment at City Hall was savagely beaten. An auto mechanic, driving through Roxbury was dragged from his car and nearly beaten to death.

In equally deplorable incidents, young children have been injured and all of the citizens of Boston have been rendered prisoners in their own communities.

As you know, the Department of Justice has ordered an F.B.I. investigation of the circumstances surrounding incidents of racial violence. The Justice Department will vigorously prosecute any wrongdoing revealed by the investigation. If evidence is presented of incitement to violence, the Justice Department is obliged to present the evidence to a grand jury.

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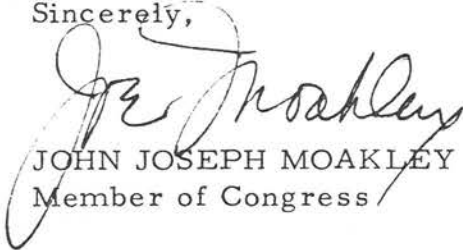
But I do not agree that federal funds should be withheld from Boston. As Congressman for most of the City, I consider my foremost duty to fight for every dime I can bring to the City from Washington. I have worked many times with the Massachusetts Black Legislative Caucus and with individual Members in efforts to win funding for programs serving the community.

Who would be hurt by such a cut-off? Every elected official is paid out of City funds and would continue drawing his paycheck. Who would be the losers? Tenants in public housing; students; participants in WIC, CETA and the Summer Youth Jobs Program; and recipients of Food Stamps? All people you and I have been elected to help!

As you know, I participated in ceremonies at City Hall called to condemn violence . . . a position I have taken time and again. And I stand prepared to continue working with you in efforts to stem the tide of violence and hope you will keep in touch whenever I can be of service.

With warmest personal regards.

Sincerely,



JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY  
Member of Congress