



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

September 22, 1975

Honorable John Joseph Moakley
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Congressman Moakley:

Your remarks concerning the FBI's handling of investigation into an incident at Whitney Tavern, also known as "Rabbit's Inn" in South Boston, as quoted in "The Congressional Record" of September 10, 1975, have been brought to my attention.

I am writing to refresh your recollection as to the action taken by this Bureau and hope you will clarify the inaccurate statements about the FBI which were attributed to you.

This Bureau has conducted extensive investigation of the incident at the specific direction of the Civil Rights Division (CRD), U. S. Department of Justice (USDJ), and submitted timely reports to the Assistant Attorney General of that Division, as well as to the U. S. Attorney at Boston. We have continued to follow this matter with the Boston Police Department (BSPD) to determine outcome of any local prosecution and to report results of any administrative action taken by the BSPD.

The FBI is not involved in a "coverup," "foot dragging" or "inaction" with respect to this case as you have stated. Further, you have accused this Bureau of denying justice to the BSPD as thousands of officers have served commendably "while a few policemen ran wild." The matter of prosecution or administrative action is in the hands of the U. S. prosecutor, local prosecutor, and police officials, not the FBI.

Honorable John Joseph Moakley

You may recall that beginning on the morning of October 7, 1974, and continuing on through to December 11, 1974, on several occasions in response to your inquiries, you were furnished the status of this investigation. In a letter of December 11, 1974, you were advised that the victims and identifiable witnesses had been interviewed; that copies of available medical records and arrest records had been obtained and that a written request had been made of the Boston Police Commissioner for a copy of the report by the Internal Affairs Division of the BSPD. I also advised you that results of these interviews, as well as other pertinent information developed by our Boston Office, had been furnished to the CRD of the USDJ and should you desire to inquire further about the matter, it was suggested you communicate directly with J. Stanley Pottinger, Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, U. S. Department of Justice, Washington, D. C.

Subsequent to completion of the initial investigation in December, 1974, the CRD requested additional investigation on April 3, 1975, and May 20, 1975. This supplemental investigation was promptly handled and results reported in a timely manner to the CRD. All the investigation requested of the FBI has been completed. We are continuing to follow results of any local prosecution and administrative action by the BSPD at request of the CRD.

As noted above, this Bureau has not denied justice either to the South Boston residents or the BSPD as you stated, but rather the dedicated employees of the FBI have been maligned by your remarks. In the interest