

Service Offices

472 West Broadway
South Boston (223-5253)

1842 Centre Street
West Roxbury (469-2100)

11 Walpole Street
Norwood (769-5416)

70 Warren Street
Roxbury (440-7800)

Room 1900 C
J.F.K. Federal Bldg.
Boston (223-5715)

NEWS

From

Congressman Joe Moakley

NUMBER 3



(NOT PRINTED AT GOVERNMENT EXPENSE)

MONEY NO. 1 SENIOR CITIZEN PROBLEM

One thing that is clear from the letters we receive in Washington is that money (or the lack of it) is your number one problem.

SOCIAL SECURITY

The most serious problem, simply because it affects the most people, is Social Security. Today's checks buy 20% less than they did in 1950. That is why Congressman James Burke and I have introduced a measure calling for a 50% increase.

Earlier this year, senior citizens finally got a 7% increase in Social Security. Soon an additional 4% increase will take effect. The tragic fact is that our rate of inflation is running over 10% and has already robbed older Americans of the additional purchasing power this increase was intended to offer.

Under our present system, senior citizens who must continue working to supplement these meager checks lose their social security altogether when they earn over \$2,400. We have introduced a bill to raise that ceiling to \$7,500.

INCOME FLOOR FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

Studies we have conducted indicate that a couple needs at least \$100 a week to live in Boston without having to pinch every penny. We have therefore introduced a bill to guarantee a minimum income to all senior citizens.

Under this legislation a single person would receive \$3850 annually. A couple would get \$5200. This bill provides automatic annual increases based on the cost of living and enables the government to grant differentials to persons living in particularly expensive areas like Boston.

TAXES

As you know, we are working for a Federal plan to assist states in setting up a "circuit breaker" plan which

will return money to senior citizens who pay more property taxes than they can afford.

We have also introduced legislation to exempt the first \$5,000 of retirement income from any income tax. This is in addition to any other benefits which may be exempt from taxation.

I believe these proposals would be important reforms in easing the financial burden on senior citizens.

OTHER FINANCIAL PROBLEMS

While these are the most serious areas requiring new legislation, there are many other problems to be faced particularly in our efforts to assure senior citizens the free medical care they deserve.

As you know, we have sponsored legislation to expand Medicare payments for prescription drugs and eyeglasses. But it is essential that we move quickly to overhaul our entire system of financing medical care for all Americans, particularly senior citizens. For this reason we are working to establish comprehensive medical insurance, far more sweeping than any plan now in effect.



Congressmen Joe Moakley (D-Mass.) and Wilbur D. Mills (D-Ark.) recently met to discuss Moakley's proposals for tax reforms to ease the burden of senior citizens. These measures have been referred to the Ways and Means Committee which Mills chairs.

SERVICE LIST:

FOOD PROGRAMS FOR SENIORS

Many senior citizens who stop by to visit with me during my weekly neighborhood office hours tell me they cannot afford to eat properly.

Accordingly, we have investigated all programs in our area which enable you to stop by and get a free hot meal while visiting with some of your neighbors. There are many places listed below and on page four. If one is convenient to you, just give them a call.

If you have any questions, please visit or call one of my local offices. Their addresses and phone numbers are at the top of the front page.

By the way, as I am sure most of you realize, none of the following programs operate on week-ends. This is unfortunate, to say the least. Please be assured that we will continue doing all in our power to extend these programs to serve you seven days a week.

FEDERAL NUTRITION PROGRAM (Free)

Congress has recently increased funding for the Nutrition Program established in the Older Americans Act, so it is now possible for existing programs to be expanded and for new locations to be opened.

If you are 60 or over, you qualify for free hot lunches from the Nutrition Program. You should call ahead so there is sure to be enough food on hand.

The Boston Department of Elder Affairs and Southwest Boston Senior Services direct the Nutrition Program in the Boston area. You can call the Department of Elder Affairs at 722-4100 (extension 125), and Southwest Services at 325-0525. You can also write to Southwest Services at 4521 Washington Street, Roslindale. The Department of Elder Affairs is in City Hall.

ROSLINDALE

Geriatric Multi Service Center
Beech Street, Roslindale

Sacred Heart Parochial School

DORCHESTER*

1st Parish Church
North Dorchester

Murphy Commercial School
South Dorchester

SOUTH BOSTON

185 West 9th Street

L Street Bath Houses

SOUTH END*

755 Tremont Street

NORTH END

North Bennett Industrial School

JAMAICA PLAIN*

Agassiz Community School

New Site to be opened soon

MATTAPAN

Associated Jewish Centers

Ledgewood Center

Association For Better Living

W. ROXBURY

Lena Park Center
150 American Legion Highway
West Roxbury

ROXBURY*

Site to be named soon

BOSTON*

1st Lutheran Church
Berkeley and Marlboro

Women's Service Club
464 Massachusetts Avenue

MEALS ON WHEELS (Free and Low Cost)

There are several "meals on wheels" programs in the Boston area. The programs deliver meals right to the homes of senior citizens who cannot travel to a meal program.

The Roxbury Council of Elders has a "meals on wheels" program as part of their hot meal program. They have a specially equipped truck which serves free meals. To arrange for home delivery, call the Council of Elders at 442-4000.

There is also a suburban "meals on wheels" program which serves senior citizens in Needham and Dedham. This program costs \$2.00 a day and consists of a hot lunch and one cold meal if you live in Needham or Dedham and want more information on this program, call the Dedham Council on Aging at (617) 326-1650 and ask for Mrs. McVea.

***SEE BACK PAGE FOR MORE LISTINGS**

100% SENIOR RATING

The welfare and economic security of senior citizens were on the line in many measures that came before Congress last year. In their year-end study of hundreds of roll call votes, the National Council of Senior Citizens rated the voting records of all Congressmen.

As you may know, the Council gave me a 100% rating. I am pleased that they feel I voted in the best interests of senior citizens on every measure which came before Congress in 1973.

The Council cited the Emergency Medical Services bill, which President Nixon vetoed, and a bill funding health maintenance organizations as the major health bills of concern to senior citizens.

The Council also rated Congressmen on their support for the Older Americans Act. Efforts were made to weaken this bill by eliminating the community service employment program for senior citizens and reducing funding for community service projects. The National Council noted our successful opposition to such cuts in the program.

NURSING HOMES

If you have ever stayed in a nursing home or are friends with someone who has, your experience could help us to draft legislation to protect the rights of people in nursing homes.

The Government Operations Committee will soon be holding hearings on nursing home conditions, and I would appreciate your help in preparing testimony.

The Committee would like to know what procedures are used to distribute "comfort money". This is money provided by the government for senior citizens in nursing homes so they will be able to buy small items like newspapers and snacks.

The Committee would like to draft legislation setting standards for the distribution of this money, to assure that such money goes to the right people. The

Committee is looking for the ideal distribution system, and would appreciate any insights you could give.

The Committee is also interested in fire protection and safety standards. If you could tell me about conditions which you have seen that deserve our attention, or precautionary measures that should be required, it would help us to draft better legislation.

I must submit my testimony by the first week in June, so it would be helpful to have your comments in my office by June 1. Please send your replies to my Washington office:

Congressman Joe Moakley
238 Cannon Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

SSI: Trojan Horse for Massachusetts Elderly

The SSI Program, which was hailed as a great step forward for senior citizens, has proven to be less of a success than we had hoped.

SSI had no sooner taken effect than we were warned that 6,000 Massachusetts handicapped would soon lose their benefits because of red tape. The day this became public, I joined with Congressman Jim Burke in sponsoring legislation to protect these endangered checks. As a result of swift Congressional action, those checks have continued beyond the threatened April 1st cut-off date.

But two other problems require immediate action:

- Massachusetts SSI beneficiaries do not receive the food benefits they used to get. As a result, the small increase made possible by the SSI program has been eaten-up by spiralling food costs.
- SSI recipients did not get the recent Social Security increase because their SSI checks were cut by the amount of the raise.

I have joined with other Congressmen concerned over the welfare of senior citizens in seeking solutions to these pitfalls. I have introduced legislation to provide food stamps to all Massachusetts SSI recipients. I have also sponsored a bill to guarantee that SSI recipients get all Social Security hikes including the back money they should have gotten from the April 3rd and May 3rd checks.

SERVICE LIST (Continued)

ELDERLY FOOD PROGRAM (Low-Cost)

In order to qualify for lunches through the Massachusetts State Food Program for the Elderly, you must be 59 years old or over, or married to someone who qualifies. The charge is 50¢.

If you are eligible, and if any of the program locations are convenient, contact the Department of Education, Bureau of Nutritional Education and School Services. You can call them at 727-5764, or you can write to them at 182 Tremont Street, Boston, Mass., 02112.

Identification proving your age will be requested.

SOUTH END	JAMAICA PLAIN	ROXBURY
United South End Settlement:	Ecumenical Social Action Committee 85 Seavens Avenue	Council of Elders, Inc. 280 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
118 Rutland Street	DORCHESTER/MATTAPAN	NORWOOD
West Newton Street Homes 47 West Newton Street	Mattapan/Dorchester CJP Center 1421 Blue Hill Avenue Mattapan	A lunch program is now being arranged
South Bay Union 640 Harrison Avenue	BOSTON	WALPOLE
Eva W. White Homes 950 Tremont Street	Boston Public School Trade High School for Girls 56 the Fenway	Stone School School Street
Union Methodist 485 Tremont Street	Morville House 100 Norway Street	
Boston Salvation Army Harbor Light Center 407 Shawmut Avenue	Morgan Memorial 95 Berkeley Street	
Greater South Golden Age Center 239 Harrison Avenue		

FREE SERVICE PUBLICATIONS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

In our last newsletter, we offered an informative booklet on arthritis. We received many requests for this booklet and a number of people wrote back to let us know they had found it useful. If you didn't order this free publication and would like one now, just check it off on the coupon below. Please use the coupon to order any other free publications you're interested in and send it to me. Address the envelope:

Congressman Joe Moakley – 238 Cannon Building – Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Joe:	Health Booklets
Please send me the following free publications:	<input type="checkbox"/> Headache <input type="checkbox"/> Asthma <input type="checkbox"/> High Blood Pressure
<input type="checkbox"/> Arthritis Booklet <input type="checkbox"/> Your Social Security Rights <input type="checkbox"/> Medicare Handbook <input type="checkbox"/> You Can Work and Still Get Social Security <input type="checkbox"/> SSI Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Questioning SSI Decisions	Name _____ Address _____ City _____ _____ MASS. Zip _____