

FROM THE OFFICE OF:  
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Boston, Massachusetts  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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SENATOR JOHN J. MOAKLEY, (D-BOSTON) CHAIRMAN, SPECIAL  
LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON BOSTON HARBOR ISLANDS CRITICIZES  
CITY AND M.D.C. ON HARBOR POLLUTION.

Senator John J. Moakley charges the City of Boston and the Metropolitan District Commission with criminal neglect in their failure to abate known and obvious sources of pollution along the shores of Dorchester Bay. Stressing that overall cleanup of Boston Harbor is beyond the financial resources of Boston and the M.D.C. and must be tied to massive Federal grants in line with the authorizations spelled out in the Clean Water Restoration Act of 1966, the Senator believes, however, that, "it is totally irresponsible for the city and the M.D.C. to debate for years and litigate in court whose obligation it is to act, while raw sewage is knowingly being pumped into Dorchester Bay at the Calf Pasture and discharged from malfunctioning tide gates".

Moakley charged, "Boston has intentionally sacrificed clean water in Dorchester Bay in order to enjoy a reduction in its M.D.C. sewer assessment by continuing to pump off the Calf Pasture". Furthermore, the M.D.C. has been a dismal failure in carrying out its 1951 Legislative mandate to clean the waters of Boston Harbor.

In 1951 the Legislature authorized the M.D.C. to spend \$110 million dollars for pollution control in Boston Harbor including treatment plants which would permit the closing of Moon Head and Calf Pasture pumping station and the rehabilitation of tide gates.

The current threatened closing of all the beaches of Dorchester Bay testifies to the M.D.C.'s failure to effectively act to abate pollution.

Senator Moakley called for the following immediate steps to issue the people's use of Dorchester Bay:

First, that the City of Boston disconnect the overflow weir at the connection with the M.D.C. sewer near Mt. Vernon Street and Kosciusko Circle in Dorchester. This overflow weir diverts during storms, part of Boston's sewer drainage to the end of Columbia Point and ultimately it is <sup>ed</sup> pumped totally untreated into Boston Harbor.

Second, that the division of Water Pollution Control in conjunction with the Department of Public Health initiated effective enforcement by identifying known public and private polluters.

Third, that the M.D.C. immediately repair the tide gates, clean the sewer lines and effect temporary chlorination of the storm sewers themselves during overflow.

Fourth, that the M.D.C. immediately undertake site planning to construct a detention-basin-chlorination station at Commercial Point to trap and treat storm waters and sewage currently flowing into Tenean Beach and Dorchester Bay. Utilizing the detention-basin-chlorination idea, excess sewage waste from the combined sewer system would be kept from being washed into the Neponset River, even during heavy storms. The system works by detaining the storm waters before they overflow the regular facilities, While in the basin the sewage is chlorinated. After the storm, the basin opens and dumps the mixture back into the sewer system to Deer Island rather than into Dorchester Bay. Such a detention basin-chlorination station would cost \$4.7 million.

Fifth! Ultimately the Congress must honor its financial commitments in the form of increased money authorization for grants under the Clean Water Act. The Nixon Administration request for only 214 million in aid, merely muddies the waters. "What is needed in the long run to clean Boston Harbor, Moakley says, is a massive civil works program congressionally authorized and financed by Federal funds.

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