Letter from John Joseph Moakley in reply to a completed questionnaire from a West Roxbury constituent, 1 December 1975

John Joseph Moakley
December 1, 1975

Mr. [Name]
West Roxbury, MA 02132

Dear Mr. [Name]:

Thank you for taking the time to express your support for our efforts against forced busing in the recent Democratic Caucus.

I sincerely regret that those of us in the Congress who oppose forced busing as a means to achieve quality education were unable to convince our colleagues of the anguish and disruption that forced busing has wrought upon cities and towns across the country.

As you may know, the vote in the Democratic Caucus was 172-96 in favor of not considering anti-busing legislation in the Congress.

I shall continue to work in the Congress with some of my concerned colleagues to gather signatures for a discharge petition to bring a Constitutional Amendment to the House Floor.

As one who was born and brought up in the City of Boston, I can well share your feelings of hopelessness and sadness for the fate of our city's public school system. Please be assured of my continuing commitment to the fight to end forced busing.

Sincerely,

JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY
Member of Congress
Moakley confers with consumer advocate Ralph Nader prior to a meeting of Moakley’s committee which reported out legislation intended to block the President’s plan to decontrol oil prices. During testimony Moakley and Nader contended that the President’s plan could cause gasoline prices to reach $1 a gallon within a year.

WASHINGTON QUESTIONNAIRE

If you are unable to stop by Saturday, I hope you’ll take a few minutes to share your views with me on some of the following issues.

UTILITY RATES. Under the present utility rate structure, people who use a lot of electricity pay less per unit of power than people who use a small amount. Do you feel the present system should be turned upside-down to encourage careful use of electricity?

☐ Yes  ☒ No

CARBON CONSUMPTION. New cars that get poor gas mileage

☒ should be discouraged by fining the manufacturer

☐ should be discouraged by taxing the purchaser

☐ should not be discriminated against by the government

RUSSIAN WHEAT DEAL. Foreign grain sales (like the Russian Wheat Deal) which raise domestic food prices:

☐ Ultimately punish American farmers and consumers alike

☒ Is necessary to achieve a favorable balance of trade between the U.S. and foreign countries

FOOD AND OIL PRICES. America should use our agricultural exports as a bargaining tool to force down the price of foreign oil. In other words, America should sell surplus grain to oil-rich nations at double or triple current prices or trade them for their oil, barrel for bushel.

☒ I mainly agree with the above statement.

☐ I mainly disagree with the above statement.

I would especially appreciate hearing your personal thoughts on this most critical situation with regard to food and energy prices. Please feel free to attach additional correspondence. I intend to read fully each of your statements. Thanks in advance for sharing your concern with me.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Your thoughts: PLEASE ASKED YOUR LEFT-WING LIBERAL FRIENDS IN CONGRESS, IF THEY WANT BUSSING, WHY DON’T THEY HAVE THEIR CONSTITUENCY FORCED BUSSED TO ROXBURY. NEXT YEAR IS AN ELECTION, AND BELIEVE ME I AM GOING TO WORK 24 HOURS A DAY FOR GEORGE WALLACE AND ANY OTHER POLITICIAN WHO REPRESENT HIS VIEWS. IF WALLACE CAN’T RUN, IT WILL BE RONALD REAGAN. YOU BETTER CONVEY THIS MESSAGE TO THE MEANYS, KENNEDYS, HARRINGTON (TRAITOR) AND THE REST OF THE LEFT WING POLITICIANS.
CONGRESSMAN JOE MOAKLEY  
238 CANNON BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

To return questionnaire, please fold over so this side faces out. Your name and address are optional.

Dear Neighbor -

This Saturday, I will be in your neighborhood and would like to invite you to stop by to see me. If you have any problems you think your Congressman can help with, stop in and tell me. I also look forward to listening to your thoughts on the school situation, the economy or anything else that's on your mind.

Hope to see you Saturday — Joe Moakley

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U.S. House of Representatives  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

West Roxbury  
Boston, MA 02132

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POSTAL PATRON  
9th Congressional District  
Massachusetts