Press Release regarding John Joseph Moakley's "reaction to vote today before the House Democrats Caucus on a Constitutional Amendment to prohibit the forced busing of school children" and his testimony, November 1975

Unknown

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Congressman Joe Moakley's (D-Mass.) reaction to the vote today before the House Democratic Caucus on a Constitutional Amendment to prohibit the forced busing of schoolchildren:

I am very disappointed in the vote to table the Constitutional Amendment to prohibit forced busing, which occurred in the House Democratic Caucus today. We had expected the support of 145 Members who had previously voted against busing in the House.

But putting a halt to forced busing is too important an issue to stop fighting for now. We have lost the battle but we have not lost the war.

Now we will recharge our batteries and turn our efforts toward getting signatures on the discharge petition.
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CONGRESSMAN JOSEPH MOAKLEY

SPEECH BEFORE THE

HOUSE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

ON A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

TO PROHIBIT FORGED BUSING
MR. CHAIRMAN, THE CITY OF BOSTON'S POPULATION IS 81% WHITE AND 19% NON-WHITE.

TEN YEARS AGO, BOSTON'S SCHOOL SYSTEM WAS 23% NON-WHITE.
TWO YEARS AGO, BOSTON'S SCHOOL SYSTEM WAS 37% NON-WHITE.
TODAY, EXCLUDING EAST BOSTON WHERE COURT-ORDERED BUSING HAS NOT TAKEN PLACE, BOSTON'S PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM IS 56% NON-WHITE.

IN AN 81% WHITE CITY, THE NON-WHITE STUDENT PERCENTAGE IS 56%... AND THAT NON-WHITE PERCENTAGE IS INCREASING DAILY.
MR. CHAIRMAN, LISTEN TO THESE "OFFICIAL" FIGURES.
IN 1965, FROM KINDERGARTEN THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL, BOSTON'S SCHOOLS INCLUDED 71,000 WHITE STUDENTS.
IN 1973, BOSTON'S SCHOOLS INCLUDED 61,000 WHITE STUDENTS.
TODAY, BOSTON'S SCHOOLS INCLUDE 35,000 WHITE STUDENTS.
IN TWO YEARS, WHITE STUDENT ENROLLMENT IN BOSTON'S SCHOOLS, ACCORDING TO "OFFICIAL" FIGURES, HAS DROPPED BY 26,000 STUDENTS.

UNOFFICIALLY, AS A GAO AUDIT REQUESTED BY MY COLLEAGUE, REPRESENTATIVE BURKE, WILL SOON BEAR OUT, WHITE STUDENT ENROLLMENT BETWEEN 1973 AND 1975 HAS DROPPED BY AT LEAST 30,000 STUDENTS OR 50%.

THE RESULTS OF ALL THIS BEAR REPEATING: IN AN 81% WHITE CITY, THE NON-WHITE STUDENT PERCENTAGE IS 56%... AND THAT
THE CHILDREN CB* ROBERT 6)FSERVE MURE THAN A LIFE PH&EB.

Wlff METAL DEIECTCHS, MlOT WtTRItS, ANG RRRGUL TEWSXOPTn

CHXIFS IN ORDER TO SAVE ~PTErt64.

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THE CHILDREN OF BOSTON DESERVE MORE THAN A LIFE FILLED WITH METAL DETECTORS, RIOT SQUADS, AND RACIAL TENSION.

IN VIETNAM, WE SAW THE FOOLHARDINESS OF DESTROYING CITIES IN ORDER TO SAVE THEM. HOW MUCH LONGER WILL WE DESTROY SCHOOL SYSTEMS SUCH AS BOSTON'S IN THE NAME OF SAVING THEM?

IN MY OWN SOUTH BOSTON, THE HIGH SCHOOL I ATTENDED IS NOW THREATENED WITH CLOSING. SOME OF THE SOCIAL PLANNERS APPARENTLY FEEL THAT IF THEY CAN'T DO AWAY WITH THE
NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL SYSTEM, MAYBE THEY SHOULD JUST DO AWAY WITH THE NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOLS.

ONE DOES NOT HAVE TO BE A SUPREME COURT JUSTICE TO KNOW THAT THE ONLY SURE WAY TO STOP FORCED BUSING IS TO PASS A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

TO THOSE WHO BALK AT SUPPORTING A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT, I SAY ... LOOK AT WHAT IS REALLY HAPPENING IN AMERICA ... AND YOU WILL SEE ... THAT THE ONLY SURE WAY TO SAVE THE 14TH AMENDMENT'S GUARANTEE OF "EQUAL PROTECTION UNDER THE LAWS" AND REVERSE PERMANENT RESEGREGATION IN OUR NATION'S CITIES ... IS TO PASS A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT THAT WILL FORBID BUSING OUR CHILDREN TO ACHIEVE RACIAL BALANCE.