

New England Journal of Public Policy

Volume 9 | Issue 1

Article 2

6-21-1993

Editor's Note

Padraig O'Malley

University of Massachusetts Boston, padraig.omalley@umb.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umb.edu/nejpp>



Part of the [Public Policy Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

O'Malley, Padraig (1993) "Editor's Note," *New England Journal of Public Policy*. Vol. 9: Iss. 1, Article 2.
Available at: <https://scholarworks.umb.edu/nejpp/vol9/iss1/2>

This Editor's Notes is brought to you for free and open access by ScholarWorks at UMass Boston. It has been accepted for inclusion in New England Journal of Public Policy by an authorized editor of ScholarWorks at UMass Boston. For more information, please contact scholarworks@umb.edu.

Editor's Note

Padraig O'Malley

On April 23, 1993, the John W. McCormack Institute of Public Affairs celebrated its tenth anniversary. To mark the occasion, the Institute established the John Joseph Moakley Award for Distinguished Public Service, which will be awarded annually to a man or woman whose contribution to the public good merits our most grateful acknowledgment. The first recipient of the award was Congressman John Joseph Moakley, Chairman of the House Rules Committee, one of the most powerful and influential positions in Congress.

Among those who paid tribute to Congressman Moakley were Michael E. Haynes, Minister, Twelfth Baptist Church, Boston; Raymond G. Torto, Director, John W. McCormack Institute of Public Affairs; Raymond L. Flynn, Mayor of Boston; Sherry H. Penney, Chancellor, University of Massachusetts Boston; Michael K. Hooker, President, University of Massachusetts; the Honorable David E. Bonior, Majority Whip, U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr., former Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable William M. Bulger, President, Massachusetts Senate; the Honorable Charles F. Flaherty, Speaker, Massachusetts House of Representatives; and Duncan Nelson, Poet Laureate and Professor of English, University of Massachusetts Boston.

In place of our usual Editor's Note, we reproduce here Professor Nelson's ode to the John W. McCormack Institute of Public Affairs because we want to share its sentiments with you our readers, who continue to make possible the publication of the *New England Journal of Public Policy*.

**Lo and Behold!
Ten Years Old!**

O Muse Homeric, spread thy wing,
That I may of McCormack sing!
And Polyhymnia, tune thy lyre,
That I may strike ten-candled fire,
As we toast our host and give salute:
"Happy birthday, McCormack Institute!"

Padraig O'Malley is a senior fellow at the John W. McCormack Institute of Public Affairs, University of Massachusetts Boston.

How fortuitous, how fitting,
That this room where we're all sitting
Is in what we, with honor, call
John W. McCormack Hall!

You've risen, John, "through all the chairs"
To occupy your place upstairs!
Though Speaker now of that higher House,
In your eye this occasion must arouse
An appreciative gleam. You've had heaped on your
Head the praises of David Bonior;
Heard a "Tip"-top tribute from Thomas O'Neill;
Then a panegyric non-pareil
From the podium's prince, that effulgent indulger
Of wit-mixed-with-blarney, William M. Bulger!
And you've heard the acceptance of John Joseph Moakley —
Who has followed your lead, who gets things done *loc'lly*!
Now it's time for you to take pride in the worth
Of the Institute to which you gave birth,
To be pleased this hotbed of Public Affairs
Your eponymous imprimatur bears!

From the moment the Institute first appeared
From behind the mustache of Edmund Beard,
It has, almost to the point of confusion,
Grown high, wide, and handsome in fecund profusion!
Each independent Hydra's head —
The Resource Center for Higher Ed,
The *Journal of Public Policy*,
The M.S.P.A., the Ph.D.,
The special task force on FFP,
And many another entity —
Sprang Athena-like from Ed's head, as from Zeus! —
Reaping renown, *and* revenues!
Mary Grant's project, just one illustration,
Saved the commonwealth millions in "cost allocation."

So many to thank and to whom to say "Brava" —
Like Murray Frank and Sandy Matava!
We learn from Liz Sherman and Betty Taymor
How women in politics now get to *say* more!
Can't name all the names, though that's a great pity,
For it's time to get down to the nitty-gritty:
Time to clear up all mystery
As to the McCormack's history!

It began because Joe here, and Tip O'Neill,
Brian Donn'lly, Joe Early, the late great Sil,
Knew the ways of Congress and had the will
To push through an enabling bill
That provided a grant of *three mil*!
This got us going in eighty-four;
And in ninety-one we got three million more!
It's as simple as that, and we owe them a debt
That we on this campus shall never forget!

Since eighty-four is the year we begin,
It might be said we came in with Flynn!
Signing on for his fiscal task force,
Our Institute bet on a very good horse!
And seeing him here at this celebration,
On the eve of his imminent elevation,
The Institute wishes him well 'neath the dome,
And promises him — right here in this poem! —
When we've dealt with South Africa, Russia, and "Home
Rule" for Ireland, we'll help him with Rome!

Enough parenthetical exegesis.
Back I return to my central thesis.
Having these millions at his disposal,
Ed could beat Redford's *Indecent Proposal*!
With backing like that he could pick and choose,
And make people offers they "couldn't refuse"!
Since he wanted the best, was determined to have it,
He signed on Patterson, Morrissey, Slavet,
Torto, Lynton, Ellman, O'Malley,
Young, Gamson, Cardarelli, Natale;
And, in subsequent feeding frenzies,
Brought in Bluestone, Hogarty, Ferguson, Menzies!
And we mustn't forget who's responsible wholly
For this event, Kathleen Foley!
Our campus's loss was our country's gain
When Uncle Sam sicced her on Saddam Hussein!

So there you have it, while Brandeis, B.C.,
B.U., and Northeastern think globally,
And taking their cue from Harvard and Sloan,
Take on "The Big Picture," UMass stands alone —
Deals with local exposures, those miniature prints
Which, examined attentively, give huge hints
As to the *human* "wherefores"
Of famines, pollution, prejudice, wars.
The McCormack deals with the *local* matter,

With the *local* solution, which all the data
Stored up in the computer banks
Of all the great think tanks
Cannot get at. What we learn in school
Often misses what's real in its stress on "the rule"!

Illustrating which, here at my close,
I'll tell you a story — the story is Joe's!
And it concerns the way he bore
The cross of truth through El Salvador.
While diplomats drank tea in the villas,
Joe drove out to see the guerrillas.
Just as Virgil was Dante's guide through hell,
Joe's guide was Gomez, Leonel.
And the day they journeyed to Santa Marta
Will go down in that history as Magna Carta.
Villa Lobos, Canas, Hercules —
Without these men's trust there could never be *peace*.
Joe works *one* way — Southie, Salvador,
You shake every hand, go from door to door,
Drink what you're offered, eat native cake,
Sing a chorus of "Steve O'Donnell's Wake";
And mirabile dictu, ere he was done,
The process of peace had fairly begun!
By his actions, this one-man "Truth Commission"
Brought forth in that country the crucial condition —
True at all times and in all lands —
That to touch people's hearts you must touch people's hands!

We lift our glasses with one accord!
Joe, your virtues reach beyond reward.
You took on a country much ignored,
Which, touched by your hand, by the grace of the Lord,
Now hammers ploughshares out of the sword.
There as here, John Joseph, you are adored.

For the University of Massachusetts Boston
Duncan Nelson