Despite the columnists and talk show hosts, a political issue, it was a moral issue. Depression, to him helping others was not frustrated with a feeling of helplessness, and handedly offered his help to others, often that need to be solved, Joe Moakley openly.

Joe Moakley was more than a politician. By his desire to make a difference in the quality-of-life of the elderly, he set an example for all elected officials, those now in office and those who will win elections in future years. To continue his legacy of dedicated public service, his successor has an enormous void to fill.

Lenders Share the Blame

HON. DOUG BEREUTER
OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, July 23, 2001

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member encourages his colleagues to read the following editorial, from the June 27, 2001, edition of the Omaha World Herald. This editorial takes the position that both debtors and lenders of credit are responsible for the record rates of bankruptcy filings in Nebraska and Iowa.

Lenders Share the Blame

Nebraskans and Iowans are filing for personal bankruptcy at a higher rate than ever before, a fact that has roots not only in unwise personal spending but also in the exploitation of easy credit available in recent years.

Nationally, personal debt is at an all-time high. Americans put a trillion dollars on their credit cards last year. The Federal Reserve reports that $500 billion owed on credit cards, auto loans and similar consumer-type loans rose to $1.5 trillion in April. Americans spend 14 percent of their income on credit cards. The temptation for instant gratification is overwhelming some people. Their difficulties are, ultimately, their own fault.

Nevertheless, lenders shouldn't be exploiting the vulnerable unless they accept the risk involved. When they bombard people of modest means with offers of credit—thousands of dollars worth of easy credit, at a low! low! low! (introductory) interest rate; when they don't have jobs or the means to pay back the debt; when they work hard to entice people who have just gone through a bankruptcy to re-enter the credit whirlwind, they need to recognize that many of these people will not be able to handle the debt they have been enticed to assume. They will default.

People should have the common sense to handle their credit cards cautiously and manage their finances wisely. But too many do not. When the credit card industry takes advantage of their weaknesses to increase its bottom line, it should not be surprised when problems occur.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SALMON PLANNING ACT

HON. JIM MCDERMOTT
OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, July 23, 2001

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, good morning. I am pleased to be here today to introduce legislation that will facilitate dialog on a key issue facing the Northwest.

Joe Moakley's Legacy

HON. BARNEY FRANK
OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, July 23, 2001

Mr. FRANK. Mr. Speaker, there have under-standably been a large number of tributes to our late colleague, Joe Moakley, who so well exemplified the qualities of a representa-tive of the people. One of them in particular had special meaning to me.

Among the issues for which he fought so hard were those affecting the right of older people to live their lives in some degree of comfort and security. The most recent issue of The Older American, published in Boston by the Massachusetts Association of Older Americans, is dedicated to Joe and contains a number of articles describing his great work in that field. I ask that the article by the MAOA President Emeritus, Elsie Frank, recalling the speech Joe made 3 years ago at her 85th birthday celebration, be printed here, as an example of the impact he had. I am proud to share with my colleagues my Mother's excellent summary of the qualities that made Joe Moakley so important to so many of us.

[From The Older American, July 2001]

JOE MOAKLEY
(By Elsie Frank)

My friend, Joe Moakley, was not a grandstander but a public official who was dedicated to public service. He took his responsibilities as a Congressman seriously; he was a public servant, not a politician. Joe Moakley was more than a politician. By his desire to make a difference in the quality-of-life of the elderly, he set an example for all elected officials, those now in office and those who will win elections in future years. To continue his legacy of dedicated public service, his successor has an enormous void to fill.

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