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Press Release - Muskie Introduces Product Testing Bill

Edmund S. Muskie

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Senator Edmund S.

MUSKIE

Maine

202) 225-5344

FOR RELEASE

Noon
Wednesday,
Feb. 3, 1971

Contact: Dick Wilson
225-7858

MUSKIE INTRODUCES PRODUCT TESTING BILL

Senator Edmund S. Muskie (D-Maine) introduced today a bill to control the use of hazardous substances in manufactured products and to require pre-market testing of new substances.

"I am convinced from our experience with phosphates and nitrilotriacetic acid (NTA) in detergents, with lead, and mercury, with pesticides, and with other hazardous substances that we must have a system to deal with these problems before they reach crisis stage," the Maine Democrat said.

"We no longer can depend upon either special legislation for each dangerous product or upon voluntary cooperation among the manufacturers to deal with these problems," he added. "These approaches have produced only uncertain and haphazard decisions in environmental policy."

The Muskie bill would amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and the Federal Clean Air Act by adding a Congressional finding that:

1. Many manufactured products may contain substances which adversely affect the health of our people and the quality of air and water.
2. The control of such adverse effects may not be feasible or preferable at the points where the products are discharged into the environment.
3. The Congress believes air and water quality must be protected by regulating the use of such dangerous substances at the point of manufacture and by seeking information about environmental effects before products are put on the market.

The Muskie bill would give broad authority to the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to regulate the use of substances which present a hazard to the environment and to require pre-market testing of such substances in accordance with procedures established by him.
