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2-1-1971

Press Release - Muskie Stresses Labor - Democratic Ties

Edmund S. Muskie

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FOR RELEASE

ON DELIVERY - 3:45pm
February 1, 1971

MUSKIE STRESSES LABOR - DEMOCRATIC TIES

Senator Edmund S. Muskie (D-Maine) said today that "...to restore trust in society we first must put government back on the side of the people. That will take action, not just words.

In a speech prepared for delivery to a meeting in Washington, D. C. of the National Planning Committee of the Machinist Non-Partisan Political League, the Senator said, "Trade unions are measured by their success in responding to and meeting the needs of their members. That same test applies to our society as a whole; and by that test there are many areas where our society is failing its members.

To re-establish citizens' confidence in government, the Senator said, "Government can act by establishing a meaningful program of national health insurance and by increasing the supply of health manpower and facilities for high quality health services.

"Government can act to guarantee the right of each citizen to pursue the opportunity to work -- free from the shackles of discrimination, poor health and lack of education or training.

"We need to enact legislation to prevent environmentally dangerous products from contaminating the air and the water. We need to end the havoc of the oil import quota program.

"Most important, we must establish equality between the buyer and the seller by expanding the concept of consumer rights and by improving the enforcement of those rights."

Senator Muskie stressed the American consumer's need for "an Independent Office of Consumer Affairs in the Executive Branch," and "access to the Federal courts through class actions.

"There are those who think that the partnership between working men and women and the Democratic Party has passed," the Senator said. "They are wrong.

"It is clear that Americans need a change. Not the appearance of change, not change for its own sake, but change that will rekindle faith in our society and turn disillusionment into trust.

"The democratic Party and the labor movement in America share this desire for responsible change, as we have shared the same goals in the past."
