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Edmund S. Muskie Papers

4-27-1971

Remarks of Senator Edmund S. Muskie Before the Florida Cabinet

Edmund S. Muskie

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REMARKS BY SENATOR EDMUND S. MUSKIE
BEFORE THE FLORIDA CABINET, 27 APRIL 1971

IN MAINE WE HAVE TWO SEASONS -- JULY AND WINTER.
IN FLORIDA YOU HAVE THE SAME, WITH A DIFFERENCE. IN
MAINE, ACCORDING TO SOME WAGS, OUR JULY LASTS ONE DAY
AND WINTER 364. IN FLORIDA YOUR WINTER IS ONE DAY, WITH
JULY TAKING UP THE REST OF THE YEAR.

BOTH STATES FACE PROBLEMS PRESENT THROUGHOUT AMERICA:
CITIES AND RURAL AREAS, SMALL TOWNS AND BIG CITIES, TRYING
TO SURVIVE POPULATION SHIFTS; AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY
TRYING TO COPE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS AND ECONOMIC
DEADLINES.

WE HAVE UNEMPLOYMENT ALONGSIDE SKILLED MANPOWER
SHORTAGES, AND HIGH TAXES BUT REVENUES INADEQUATE TO PROVIDE
ESSENTIAL PUBLIC SERVICES.

THESE ARE PROBLEMS IN FLORIDA AND IN MAINE. THEY
ARE PROBLEMS IN THE OTHER FORTY-EIGHT STATES.

BUT OUR STATES ARE DIFFERENT FROM MANY OTHERS IN THEIR
RELIANCE ON THEIR NATURAL ENVIRONMENTS FOR MUCH OF THEIR
ECONOMIC WELL-BEING. BOTH ATTRACT VISITORS AND NEW RESIDENTS,
AND KEEP THEIR OWN, BECAUSE OF SURROUNDINGS WHICH MAKE OUR
STATES MORE THAN PLACES TO EXIST. BOTH STATES ARE WORKING
VERY HARD TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF THEIR ENVIRONMENTS.

Florida, XXXXXXXXXX Cabinet
27 April 1971

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THE CONGRESS HAS PASSED A NUMBER OF LAWS TO ASSIST THOSE EFFORTS. THIS YOU KNOW.

IN THIS SESSION OF CONGRESS WE ARE WORKING TO EXPAND EXISTING AUTHORITIES FOR AIR AND WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT. OUR MAJOR EMPHASIS, THIS YEAR, IS ON DESIGNING WATER POLLUTION AND OCEAN DUMPING LEGISLATION TO GIVE THE STATE'S A REAL CHANCE TO USE THEIR CAPABILITIES TO CLEAN UP OUR WATERWAYS AND SHORELINES. OTHER LEGISLATION INCLUDES RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND UTILIZATION POLICIES, PACKAGING, DETERGENTS, AND LAND-USE POLICIES.

WE CANNOT IMPROVE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY WITHOUT THE COOPERATION OF ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT, THE EFFORTS OF INDIVIDUAL CITIZENS AND INVESTMENTS BY THE BUSINESS SECTOR. IN MANY PARTS OF THE COUNTRY WE NEED THE KIND OF COMMITMENT TO ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY WHICH THE STATE OF FLORIDA AND ITS PEOPLE HAVE MADE.

YOU HAVE MADE REAL PROGRESS. YOUR LAWS TO PROTECT YOUR COAST FROM OIL SPILLS AND YOUR OPPOSITION TO WASTE DUMPING IN THE OCEAN ARE EVIDENCE OF YOUR COMMITMENT.

I AM SURE YOU AGREE WITH ME, HOWEVER, THAT MUCH MORE MAY HAVE TO BE DONE TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT. WE MAY HAVE TO TAKE STRONG STEPS TO REDUCE MOTOR VEHICLE CONCENTRATIONS IN OUR URBAN AREAS. WE MAY HAVE TO REQUIRE CLOSED CYCLE WASTE TREATMENT SYSTEMS AND WATER REUSE FOR INDUSTRIES AND COMMUNITIES, TO REDUCE EXCESSIVE DEMANDS ON OUR FRESH WATER SUPPLIES. WE MAY HAVE TO INSTITUTE MUCH MORE STRINGENT LAND-USE POLICIES,

TO INSURE AGAINST LAND ABUSE AND OVER-CROWDING.

THE ISSUE IS NOT WHETHER WE SHALL HAVE A HEALTHY ECONOMY OR A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT, BUT HOW WE CAN PLAN TO INSURE BOTH.

ACROSS AMERICA TOO MANY AREAS HAVE BEEN PLUNDERED. TOO MANY RECREATION AREAS HAVE BEEN RAVAGED BY UNPLANNED COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT. TOO MANY BEACHES AND WOODLANDS, MOUNTAIN AREAS AND LAKES, RIVERS AND PLAINS AREAS HAVE BEEN OVER-DEVELOPED FOR SHORT TERM ECONOMIC GAINS. THE RESULTS HAVE BEEN LONG TERM ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION AND ECONOMIC LOSSES.

I REGARD THE DEVELOPMENT OF POLICIES FOR BALANCED GROWTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ONE OF THE GREAT CHALLENGES OF THE SEVENTIES. IT WILL NOT BE CHEAP OR EASY. BUT THE EFFECT OF A DYNAMIC, PEOPLE-ORIENTED BALANCED GROWTH PROGRAM IN YOUR STATE, AND IN MINE, CAN HAVE VERY IMPORTANT RESULTS: THE STATE WILL DIRECT ITS OWN DESTINY; THE COUNTRY WILL BENEFIT FOR GENERATIONS FROM SUCH FORESIGHTEDNESS; AND VITAL NATIONAL RESOURCES WILL BE MAINTAINED AND ENHANCED.

I BELIEVE THESE BENEFITS ARE WORTHY OF YOUR BEST LEGISLATIVE EFFORT; AND I ASSURE YOU THAT WE SHALL DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO HELP.

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