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6-30-1971

## Statement by Senator Edmund S. Muskie on Supreme Court Decision on Pentagon Papers

Edmund S. Muskie

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Muskie, Edmund S., "Statement by Senator Edmund S. Muskie on Supreme Court Decision on Pentagon Papers" (1971). *Speeches*. 106.

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# MUSKIE

— Maine

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FOR RELEASE

IMMEDIATELY

June 30, 1971

## MUSKIE COMMENTS ON SUPREME COURT DECISION

Today's decision by the Supreme Court is a victory for the American people's right to know. The courts have shown the great strength of our Constitution by upholding the freedom of the press in this confrontation between our newspapers and bureaucratic classification.

But today's decision is not enough. The American people cannot rely upon leaks from classified material to know about the great decisions of our nation. This piecemeal method would never break down the barriers of secrecy, and material that should remain secret might be released.

Our nation needs an orderly process of declassifying documents that belong to the American people. That is why I will soon introduce in Congress the legislation which I proposed on June 20 to create an independent board that will declassify appropriate documents and provide Congress and the public the information they must have to play their proper roles in our democratic system.

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