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7-13-1971

## **Press Release - Muskie Comments on the Emergency Employment Act**

Edmund S. Muskie

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# MUSKIE

Maine

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IMMEDIATELY FOR RELEASE

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July 13, 1971

## MUSKIE COMMENTS ON THE EMERGENCY EMPLOYMENT ACT

Senator Edmund S. Muskie today described the Emergency Employment Act, which President Nixon signed into law Monday (yesterday), as a "useful and much needed step to combat the problem of continued high unemployment in Maine and in the country

To the more than 33,000 persons who are currently out of work in Maine, the Act will provide prompt assistance through public service jobs sponsored by the state, county, and municipal governments.

To the governments of Maine, the Act offers an opportunity to provide a variety of essential public services for up to two years. Under the Act, the Department of Labor may fund up to 90% of salaries in areas of high unemployment for such jobs as police and fire protection, economic development, health and recreational services and environmental control.

"If Congress, which originated this program, now appropriates the full amount of money authorized by the Act, Maine could receive up to \$15 million over the next two years based upon recent state-wide unemployment figures." The unemployment rate in Maine for May stood at 8.1% with 6 counties over 10%.

"I urge municipal officials throughout Maine to fully explore the benefits which the Act provides.

"These jobs will not be 'make work' jobs. They will be jobs which need to be done and which will provide an opportunity for future advancement. The Maine Environmental Improvement Commission, for example, states it could employ 30 additional persons to carry out its expanded responsibilities. The Emergency Employment Act could enable the Commission to fill these positions.

"The task of revitalizing our nation's economy is one of the most pressing problem now facing the Congress. The Emergency Employment Act represents one of several initiatives which the Congress has taken in this regard, and I am pleased that the President this year has reversed his previous veto of this measure."

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