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Press Release - On the Weakening of the Anti-Pollution Bill

Edmund S. Muskie

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MUSKIE News

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Washington, D.C. -- Senator Edmund S. Muskie, Chairman of the Senate Air and Water Pollution Subcommittee, tonight issued the following statement about reports that the Administration has gutted and weakened the implementation of new federal air pollution control laws.

Muskie, who authored the 1970 Clean Air Act and managed its passage through the Congress said:

"Every concerned American should be disappointed and disturbed, as I am, about reports that the White House has watered down the proposals of its own anti-pollution agency for the implementation of the 1970 Clean Air Act. If these reports are accurate, the Administration plans to compromise and weaken important provisions of the 1970 Act which are designed to protect the public health.

"Our Subcommittee has sought to review these proposed guidelines for several weeks. The Nixon Administration has refused to provide them. While these guidelines have been made available to the industrial community, they have not been made available to the Subcommittee. If today's reports are accurate, it is clear that the proposed implementation of the Act falls short of the public health protections Congress authorized last year.

"I have directed the Subcommittee staff to make a close scrutiny of these regulations. There can be no substitute for a maximum effort to protect the public health in the implementation of the Act.

"The Subcommittee will take whatever measures are necessary to assure the public health is protected."

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