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Press Release - Senator Edmund S. Muskie Urges Nixon to Take Action on Ship Procurement Program

Edmund S. Muskie

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FOR RELEASE

~~IMMEDIATELY~~

October 2, 1971

32 A.M. '71

Senator Edmund S. Muskie ~~today~~ announced he has joined with other members of the New England Congressional delegation, including Congressmen Kyros and Hathaway, in urging the President to take action on a ship ~~charter~~ ^{procurement} program currently being studied by the Navy Department's Military Sealift Command.

Under its "multi-mission" ship program, the Navy is contemplating the charter of new, privately constructed vessels to meet a variety of military transport needs. The ships ^(could be used) ~~would be~~ interchangeable for military or commercial ^{purposes.} ~~use.~~

The Bath Iron Works is currently bidding for a contract to construct 5 tankers under a similar charter program for the Military Sealift Command.

"After consultation with representatives of both labor and management at the Bath Iron Works, I ^{am} ~~was~~ pleased to join in ^{this} ~~their~~ effort to encourage swift action on a program which will provide new opportunities for Bath Iron Works ~~and the shipbuilding industry in New England.~~"
Senator Muskie said.

~~The letter to the President, signed by 39 New England Congressmen and Senators, urges speedy approval of the "multi-mission" ship program as a means of alleviating the current difficulties being experienced by the Quincy Shipyard in Massachusetts.~~

"The present expansion of the Bath Iron Works, when completed, will enable BIW to bid on a variety of new and larger ships in the future. The "multi-mission" ships program is tailor-made to BIW's capabilities," Senator Muskie said.

AP - Bill J.
UPI - 623-9275 - 6:00 PM.
Bath. News. 729 3711 - 5:00 AM.

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