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## Press Conference - O'Hare Airport, Chicago, Illinois

Edmund S. Muskie

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Q. (Unclear). . .officials here in Chicago, like Mayor Daley?

A. No, I won't be meeting with the mayor,; I expect to see him in the course of the weekend at some of these affairs. I understand he expects to be at the Whiston Institute Dinner on Sunday night.

I mean

Q. Do you intend to speak to him at all ~~and he expects~~ confer with him, have any kind of meeting with him?

A. Well, I tried to arrange such a meeting, but the mayor, I understand, is not available this morning. And so I don't...

Q. Senator, do you have any reaction to President Nixon's comments regarding your statement that you don't think that a presidential candidate could be <sup>won</sup> ~~xxx~~ with a black man ....

A. Well, I don't think the president answered the question. I answered. What he said is something I did say, and he ignored that; that is, that there is prejudice in America, unfortunately, and I think the state of public opinion is such that the American people are not ~~xxx~~ prepared to support a ticket with a black. That's an opinion...could I finish? That's an opinion, not a decision, and I think unless we face facts like that, including the fact that a black baby has a 40% greater chance of dying before his first birthday than a white baby, the fact that unemployment among blacks is twice as high as it is among whites, the fact that quality education is not as freely available as--to blacks--as it is to whites--unless we face facts like that, we can't correct them. And this is the whole purpose of the opinion which I expressed and may I emphasize that it was expressed in a meeting with black

leaders, in the Watts area of Los Angeles. I don't think it could be described as a self-serving statement. It was a frank opinion, and that's all it was, and it was taken as such by all those who were present in that group. The president's statement undertook to suggest it was something entirely different, and it was not.

Q. How do you feel about Senator Harris entering the race now--formally?

A. It really didn't take me by surprise.

Q. Do you see anything in the fact that Mayor Daley won't see you this morning--does this show his independence in the presidential race?

A. Oh, no. I've had meetings with the mayor. There's never been any difficulty. Our personal relations are friendly and I talk to him on the phone occasionally and I see him occasionally. I don't expect him to be here every time I arrive in Chicago.

Q. Do you have any recommendations for the Supreme Court?

A. No, I do not. If and when I am given that responsibility, I'll have ideas.

Q. The vice president said yesterday--or he likened comments made by you and Senator McGovern and others to comments made by Gus Fall.

What is your reaction to the vice president's comment?

A. Well, the vice president never lets facts stand in the way of his opinions.

Q. Senator, the president is proposing to go to Red China. In your opinion, is that like the beginning of the end of Nationalist China in the United Nations?

A. Well, it's difficult to take a reading on the parliamentary and maneuverings, /otherwise, that are taking place in the United Nations at the present time. We lost some moves in the Security--in the committee, appear to be holding our own in the votes in the Assembly at the moment. I hope not. I think that the president's announcement, his decision to go to Red China, probably had very little to do with the status of the issue in the United Nations, except, perhaps, to accelerate the day when Red China would receive membership.

Q. Haven't the British seemed to have adopted the policy that if Red China is admitted, Nationalist China must fall in the United Nations? Do you agree with the British proposal?

A. No, I do not. I think that the principal of universality of membership is one that ought to be applied to Taiwan, as it is to other countries., and that Taiwan ought to have membership.

Q. The China policy is acceptable to you?

A. Well, I don't like to describe it as a true China policy. Rather I would like to refer to it as a decision that will of course be made by the United Nations, and whether or not there is two Chinas or one is really an issue that has to be decided, as between mainland China and Taiwan. I don't think any nation or nations outside of those two can decide that issue for them. We are reminded constantly that both Taiwan and mainland China subscribe to the "one China" theory. So there's no way we can make that decision for the Chinese people. But the question of membership in the United Nations is a question of

whether or not these two political entities should be members of the United Nations, and I think that if the principal of universality means anything, it means that both of them ought to be entitled to membership.

Q. Senator Muskie, whose--whose airplane is that, that you are travelling on today?

A. It's a leased plane; I don't know the details.

Q. Senator, can you tell us whether Mr. Nixon's proposed visit to Red China and some of his other things concerning the wage-price freeze have taken the wind out of the sails of a number of Democratic potential presidential candidates?

A. Well, with respect to his economic policy, this is his fourth new economic policy since he took office, and after each one I was asked questions like the one you've just asked. And he hasn't solved the economic problem yet. So I suspect we still have some issues around next year.

Q. Do you think that the Vietnam war is the issue it was a year ago?

A. Well, I think it's a potential issue, at any time, that is, potential in terms of public visibility and concern. At any time until we completely withdraw. I think public concern about it is less visible than it was a year ago, but I don't think that means, necessarily, that it has disappeared, indeed, the polls indicate that the spectacle of the election in South Vietnam--the way it has been narrowed to a one-man choice--has stimulated even deeper revulsion on the part of the American

people toward our involvement there. We ought to remember that at one point we justified our involvement as a way of ensuring a choice for the South Vietnamese people as to their future. It's rather ironic, now, that in this election which takes place all these years after we started, the South Vietnamese people have no choice. And they have no choice because of the maneuverings of this government in Saigon.

Q. What are Nixon's three other "new economic policies"?

A. Well, his first one--I'm not going to undertake to take the time to identify them in detail, but his first, right after he took office, first of all he said he would do nothing through the White House about wage and prices, and he in effect gave a blank check to the price decision makers and to labor to serve the interests of their own organizations in both respects. He announced this a week after he took office. He also announced his complete reliance on budgetary policy, and balanced budgets in the traditional sense, to do that. And the result was increasing unemployment, and growing inflation. Then in--following the elections of last fall, when he apparently read those elections as a rejection of his economic policies, he reversed himself 180 degrees on monetary policy, on budgetary policy--he switched from a balanced budget to a full employment budget which was a very ingeniously coined Republican label for unbalanced budgets. I wish we'd been as ingenious years ago, in finding that kind of a label. Then in June of this year,

he announced his third economic policy, after a well-publicized and very thorough review of the results of his policies, and through Secretary Connally announced about the first of July that he was satisfied, that there would be no change in his economic policies, that he was satisfied that his policies would produce. Rising employment and declining inflation. Well, something happened between July <sup>1<sup>st</sup></sup> and August 14th to persuade him that his June decision was wrong. So in June he reversed himself 180 degrees on wage-price restraints, reversed himself on the question of economic stimulation, and so on. These are the four economic policies, as to which I have been challenged by the press, over the last two and a half years to comment. Each time you said to me, well, now that President Nixon has solved the economic problem, what issue do you have left? Well, those predictions haven't borne fruit because his policies were wrong, and I think that his policies are wrong now, in some important respects.

Q. Hasn't he been trying to cope with an inflation that has been brought on by inflationary deficit spending by previous Democratic administrations?

A. Well, no, if he would have said to us in November of 1968, that because of Democratic policy<sup>ies</sup>, two and a half years after he took office he would not have been able to deal with ~~xxxxxxx~~ the consequences of Democratic policies, then the country might have been willing to entrust those policies to a Democratic president. I don't think the American people accept an indefinite excuse. President Nixon was

elected on a promise to deal with these problems, and I think its ironic, now, that his promise should be to get us back to where we were when he started. That's the sum total of his present economic plan, to get us back where he started. Now the American people may, for four years of a Noxin administration, take his excuse that he didn't cause the problem. I don't think so. I think the American people when they ~~xxx~~ elect a president, expect him to meet the responsibility of his own promises. He has not done that, and I think to blame, now, previous administrations, going back, perhaps, to George Washington, for his difficulties, is not an acceptable excuse, to the American people.

Dick. Thank you gentleman. I've got another schedule to make. One more question. The last one.

Q. Senator, in an article published about ten days ago, ~~NIXON~~ Nick the Greek had you running out in front. Have you heard anything ~~about~~ from Mr. ~~Nixon~~ Nick? <sup>(?)</sup> Could you tell us how he decided that?

A. No, we don't have any hot lines.

(End of Conference)