

Bates College

**SCARAB**

---

Congressional Records

Edmund S. Muskie Papers

---

11-4-1971

## **Press Release - "Let the People Judge the Need or Cancel Blast," Muskie Urges**

Edmund S. Muskie

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scarab.bates.edu/mcr>

---

# MUSKIE News

SUITE 1004

1660 L STREET, N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036

TELEPHONE (202) 833-3850

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
NOVEMBER 4, 1971**

**CONTACT:**

**Dick Stewart  
Herb Hadad  
(202) 833-3850**

## **"LET THE PEOPLE JUDGE THE NEED OR CANCEL BLAST," MUSKIE URGES**

**Senator Edmund S. Muskie issued the following statement today:**

**Last week, the Administration announced its decision to go ahead with the Cannikin atomic test, which may well be the largest underground nuclear explosion in history. But what will happen on the Alaskan island of Amchitka this Saturday is more than a test of weaponry. The explosion threatens to contaminate the environment by venting radioactivity into the atmosphere. There is also a chance that the blast will trigger a tidal wave or an earthquake. And we are running such risks even though the best available information indicates that the Cannikin test is unnecessary.**

**It has been reported in the press -- and the Administration has not denied -- that five of seven of the President's own agencies advised him to cancel the test. The President should explain to the American public why he overruled most of his advisors. And he should release their reports about the environmental impact of Cannikin.**

**The way the Cannikin decision was made is as disturbing as the decision itself, which I have opposed from the start. For too long, important decisions affecting the lives and welfare of Americans and people everywhere have been made behind closed doors, out of public sight. It is time to end the official suppression of unclassified expert reports. It is time to end government by silence, evasion, and secrecy. And it is time to bring the facts about the Cannikin test into the open.**

**If the President thinks Cannikin is necessary, let him tell the American people why. Let the people judge the need for the test. And if the President will not produce his reasons, then he should cancel the Cannikin test.**

#

#

#

#

#