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## **Press Release - Muskie Scores White House Criticism of Senate Water Pollution Control Bill**

Edmund S. Muskie

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# MUSKIE

Maine

(202) 225-5344

FOR RELEASE

Immediate Release

November 7, 1971

## MUSKIE SCORES WHITE HOUSE CRITICISM OF SENATE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL BILL

Senator Edmund S. Muskie, chairman of the Subcommittee on Air and Water Pollution, replied sharply today to White House criticism of the Senate's water pollution control bill.

"I am dismayed by the reported White House effort to undercut Senate-passed water pollution legislation," the Maine Democrat said.

"The Senate's unanimous vote to chart a new course of action in our fight to clean the Nation's waters should have encouraged the White House environmentalists," he continued.

"Unfortunately, it appears that the Administration has undergone an environmental metamorphosis, emerging from the cocoon not as a butterfly but as a moth."

The Senate bill, S. 2770, was passed Tuesday, November 2, by a vote of 86 to 0. It is a clean bill, reported unanimously by a vote of 16 to 0 in the Committee on Public Works. Fifteen members of the Committee are co-sponsors of the bill.

Senator Muskie, as chairman of the Subcommittee, was floor manager for the bill. To develop the bill, the Subcommittee and Committee held 45 working sessions during the summer and early autumn.

On Wednesday and Thursday of this week, reports circulated on Capitol Hill that the Administration is seeking to delay and amend the Senate bill in the House Public Works Committee.

Late Thursday, there were further reports that White House spokesmen are urging newspapers to run editorials critical of the Senate bill.

(S. 2770 establishes a national policy calling for the elimination of all discharges of pollutants from the Nation's waters by 1985.

(The bill authorizes a total of \$19.4 billion in Federal funds over the next four years to assist States and localities in the water pollution control program.

(Of that amount, a total of \$14 billion is to be provided in new Federal matching grants for the construction of sewage treatment facilities. The funds are to be available until expended by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.)