

Bates College

**SCARAB**

---

Congressional Records

Edmund S. Muskie Papers

---

1-29-1972

## **Press Release - Senator Muskie Accuses Nixon of Breaking Promise to Women**

Edmund S. Muskie

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

---

# MUSKIE News

1972 K STREET, N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

TELEPHONE (202) USA 1972

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6 P.M., EST  
SATURDAY, JANUARY 29, 1972

CONTACT: DICK STEWART  
HERB HADAD  
(202) USA-1972

## SEN. MUSKIE ACCUSES NIXON OF BREAKING PROMISE TO WOMEN

Sen. Edmund S. Muskie (D-Me) said today (January 29) that the Nixon Administration has not carried out its promises to appoint women to policy-making positions in government and has not been candid about its performance in the area of equal opportunity for women.

"In fact, out of a total number of 10,000 positions, the government's own figures indicate that only 79 women have received such appointments from the Nixon Administration," the Maine Democrat said in a statement.

He also released a report (attached) by political scientist Dr. Irene L. Murphy, Women's Rights Director of the Muskie for President Committee, and urged the administration to set the story straight about women in government.

"As has been evident in other recent disclosures of the gaps between the administration's public statements and its actions, the administration is not being candid about its performance in the area of equal opportunity for women," Sen. Muskie said. "Number juggling is especially apparent in obscuring this failure to make promised appointments of women to high federal office."

Dr. Murphy reported that different figures have been cited by White House staff members to support statements that breakthroughs have been made in the appointment of women to high level positions.

"Figures released by the Civil Service Commission, which each year reports the number of women in all pay grade levels

- more -

page 2--

of the federal government in relation to the total number of persons in these pay grade levels, fail to support these claims for 'breakthroughs'," Dr. Murphy pointed out.

The report compared the number of women appointees with the total number of persons in pay grade levels as follows:

--33 women appointed to pay grade level 16 out of 6,000 in this pay grade.

--13 women appointed to pay grade level 17 out of 2,500.

--4 women appointed to pay grade level 18 out of 500.

--14 women appointed in pay grades above 18 out of approximately 1,300.

"The proportion is very small and entirely out of line with any claims for increases over the past year or the past decade," Dr. Murphy said.

In releasing Dr. Murphy's report, Sen. Muskie noted that women are still represented at only slightly more than the one percent level in higher echelon government jobs, although they "constitute a majority of the population and are in leadership roles in significantly higher numbers in community organizations, business and professions. The federal government must provide leadership in the important area of equal opportunity for minorities and for the majority of our population who are women."

Following are the texts of Sen. Muskie's statement and Dr. Murphy's report:

Sen. Muskie: "Women throughout the country have been led to believe that the Nixon Administration has carried out its promises to appoint more women to high Federal policy-making positions. In fact, out of a total number of over 10,000 positions, the government's own figures indicate that only 79 women have received such appointments from the Nixon Administration.

"As has been evident in other recent disclosures of the gaps between the Administration's public statements and its actions, the Administration is not being candid about its performance in the area of equal opportunity for women. Number-juggling is especially apparent in obscuring this failure to make promised appointments of women to high Federal office.

"I am releasing today the attached report by political scientist Dr. Irene L. Murphy, who is presently serving as Women's Rights Director of the Muskie for President Committee, with the recommendation that the Administration set the story straight about women in government.

"Women are still represented in the higher echelons, pay level 16 and above, at a slightly more than one percent level, although they constitute a majority of the population and are in leadership roles in significantly higher numbers in community organizations, business and professions. The Federal government must provide leadership in the important area of equal opportunity for minorities and for the majority of our population who are women."

Report by Dr. Irene Murphy, who holds a doctorate in American Politics from Columbia University and who has been associated with the Muskie campaign since June, 1971:

"White House staff members have stated on several occasions in the past six months that breakthroughs have been made in the appointment of women to high level office in the Federal government. Different figures have been cited to support such statements. On one occasion, Barbara Franklin, a White House assistant, said that in April of 1971 there were only 27 women in high-level positions (with salaries of \$27,000 to

page 4 --

\$42,500, presumably pay grade levels 16 and above). The Administration has increased this number to 60 by the end of October, 1971, it was claimed. On another occasion, in January of 1972, the Administration took credit for 'more than doubling' the number of women in such positions, by increasing their number 'from 36 to 79.'

"Figures released by the Civil Service Commission, which each year reports the number of women in all pay grade levels of the Federal government in relation to the total number of persons in these pay grade levels, plus the recent release by the White House of the names of women appointees and their pay grade levels, fail to support any claims for 'breakthroughs' in the appointment of women to high level office.

"By the end of 1970 there were far more than 27 or 36 women in high-level positions. Additional appointments by the Administration to these positions are no higher than those made by the two previous Administrations.

"The list of women appointees announced by the Nixon Administration cover both career and non-career appointments. When one compares the number of women appointees with the total number of persons in the pay grade levels, the proportion is very small and entirely out of line with any claims for increases over the past year or the past decade.

"The Nixon Administration claims to have appointed a total of 33 women to pay grade level 16. The total number of persons serving in this pay grade level is approximately 6,000.

"Thirteen women have been appointed to pay grade level 17 out of a possible number of 2,500.

"In pay grade level 18, four have been appointed out of about 500.

- more -

page 5 --

"In pay grade level above 18, fourteen have been appointed out of approximately 1,300.

"Out of a total number of 466 Brig. Generals in the Army and Air Force, five women have been appointed.

"President Nixon still scores lower than the two previous Administrations in appointments of women as ambassadors. Nixon has appointed two women while President Johnson appointed four and President Kennedy one minister and one ambassador. President Nixon has appointed only one woman district court judge while Presidents Kennedy and Johnson each appointed two and President Johnson also appointed the only woman now serving as a circuit judge.

# # # # #