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Remarks by Senator Edmund S. Muskie at the Pennsylvania Democratic Party Dinner

Edmund S. Muskie

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REMARKS BY SENATOR EDMUND S. MUSKIE

PENNSYLVANIA DEMOCRATIC PARTY DINNER - HARRISBURG, PA.

8:00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1971

I am proud to be with you tonight. But after a recent letter writing campaign by a former Pennsylvania Governor, I suspect that it won't do me any good ~~for me~~ to ask to be taken to your Leader.

The Senators who are here are supposed to speak for five or ten minutes. O.K., Hubert, I'll make a deal with you. For every minute less than an hour that you talk, I'll give an 8¢ stamp to George Leader.

I supported Hubert Humphrey months before the convention in 1968. And frankly, I think one good turn deserves another.

At the same time, I'm grateful to Hubert. I wouldn't be with you tonight except for him. If Hubert had done just a little bit better in 1968, he would be in the White House, Averill Harriman would be in Peking, and I would be visiting my relatives in Eastern Poland.

I also want to say something about Fred Harris. Senator Harris is not too well known in Pennsylvania. But you cannot imagine how popular he is in Oklahoma. Down there, they're calling Fred's campaign the "prairie fire" campaign -- the flurry with a singe on top.

You may not know this either -- but George McGovern is the son of a minister. And when he thinks about delegate votes in the months ahead, I hope he remembers the old Biblical aphorism: "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

At least, that's what Earl Weaver keeps muttering as he goes to sleep each night. I know you are proud of the Pittsburgh Pirates. Next year, the Democratic Party is also going to play in a national league. And I hope we do as well in 1972 as the Pirates did in 1971.

At least, we can improve on the Republican record. Do you know what the definition of a perfect failure is? A political party that can't do any better than running Richard Nixon for national office for over twenty years. During the same two decades, our party has given the country Harry Truman. . . and Adlai Stevenson, John Kennedy. . . and Lyndon Johnson and Robert Kennedy. And we can win again in 1972.

You are already laying the groundwork here in Pennsylvania. Before the last election, you were behind in voter registration by 50,000. Today, you are ahead by 200,000 -- the greatest Democratic lead in the history of this state.

And in the months ahead, those new Democrats and millions of others across the country will debate candidates and issues. As we debate, I

hope we remember this -- that defeating Richard Nixon is more important than winning or losing a contest in our own party.

*Are you sure? I would be if I were
anywhere else.*

We need a President who will create jobs for workers instead of promises on television. And we cannot accept the new Nixon "prosperity," which tells us that our best hope is an unemployment rate 40% higher than when this Administration took office.

We need a President who will trust the people with the truth. . . and follow a foreign policy the people can trust. And we cannot accept anything less than peace in Indochina -- an end to the war no general can win and no reason can make right.

Most of all, we need a President who will fight for equal rights. . . for Blacks as well as Whites and women as well as men. And we cannot accept an Administration which will not put a qualified woman on the Supreme Court.

That's why we're here tonight.

That's why the Democratic candidate will come back to Pennsylvania next Fall.

And that's why we'll hold this dinner again -- two years from now -- in the East Room of the White House.

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