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Edmund S. Muskie Papers

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Press Release - Muskie Outlines Program for Senior Citizens

Edmund S. Muskie

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MUSKIE News

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MUSKIE OUTLINES PROGRAM FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

As he carries his presidential campaign into more primaries than any American in history, Senator Edmund S. Muskie continues to champion "new hope" for older Americans.

In campaign speeches in New Hampshire and Florida, the Senator emphasized:

"We need a 20 percent increase in Social Security benefits to catch up with inflation in living costs generally, and the cost of medical care specifically."

Additionally, he called for guaranteed automatic Social Security increases "whenever the cost of living rises."

He urged voters to work for "stronger Social Security -- for a decent standard of life for every older American."

He also stressed three other program areas:

***HOUSING SECURITY** -- "relief from the property taxes that are driving too many older Americans out of their homes. Revenue sharing and fair assessment will help ease the burden ... We need a new billion dollar housing security system to pay the taxes, mortgages and rents the aged can't pay for themselves. The least we can do for the aged is let them keep the homes they've earned."

***MEDICAL SECURITY** -- "We need a comprehensive National Health Insurance plan to take the dollar sign out of medicine once and for all ... We need new programs to answer the special health needs of the aged -- doctors trained to treat their ailments -- clinics built where they live, not fifteen or twenty miles away -- and health care teams to bring aid to the elderly who cannot leave their homes. As a Senator, I have proposed all of these programs."

***PERSONAL SECURITY** -- "We need an all-out attack on crime in America, and that means more policemen with better training and equipment, and reform in our courts and our prisons ... We need something I proposed over a month ago; a special new program to protect the elderly -- to put special police patrols in their neighborhoods -- and to indemnify the aged for the losses they suffer from crime. Our elderly must never again feel helpless against the criminal. And fear must never again be a companion of old age."

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