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## Remarks by Senator Edmund S. Muskie at the Oneida County Democratic Dinner

Edmund S. Muskie

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REMARKS BY SENATOR EDMUND S. MUSKIE

ONEIDA COUNTY DEMOCRATIC DINNER - UTICA, NEW YORK

8:30 P.M., THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28

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I AM PROUD TO STAND UP TONIGHT FOR DICK ASSARO.

I AM PROUD TO ENDORSE HIS CANDIDACY.

AND I WILL BE PROUD TO JOIN YOU NEXT WEEK IN CELEBRATING HIS  
OVERWHELMING RE-ELECTION.

NO MAYOR IN AMERICA DESERVES ANOTHER TERM MORE THAN DICK ASSARO.  
IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS, HE HAS MOVED THIS CITY FROM REPUBLICAN STAGNATION  
TO DEMOCRATIC PROGRESS. SURROUNDED BY REPUBLICAN ADMINISTRATIONS IN  
THE COUNTY, THE STATE, AND THE NATION -- AND SUSTAINED ONLY BY A PRECIOUS  
RESERVE OF FUNDS GRANTED UNDER THE JOHNSON ADMINISTRATION -- DICK ASSARO  
HAS WORKED HARD TO MAKE UTICA A STRONG AND VITAL CITY. AND HE HAS  
SUCCEEDED AT A TIME WHEN THE NATION NEEDS TO KNOW IT CAN BE DONE.

THERE'S AN IDEA TAKING SHAPE IN THIS COUNTRY THAT THE CITIES ARE  
UNGOVERNABLE ANYWAY -- THAT URBAN AMERICA IS DOOMED TO DECLINE -- AND  
THAT OUR CITIES ARE SENTENCED WITHOUT REPRIEVE TO EVER RISING CRIME AND  
POLLUTION. . . AND TO THE SLOW DEATH OF DISINTEGRATION.

ANYONE WHO BELIEVES THAT SHOULD LOOK AT DICK ASSARO'S RECORD.

HE HAS STARTED THIRTEEN NEW URBAN RENEWAL PROJECTS IN UTICA. . .  
TO BRING NEW STRENGTH AND GROWTH AND LIFE TO THIS TOWN.

HE HAS CUT THE CRIME RATE BY AN ASTOUNDING 25%. . . A REMARKABLE VICTORY AGAINST THE FEAR THAT TOO OFTEN WALKS WITH PEOPLE THROUGH THE STREETS AND NEIGHBORHOODS OF OUR CITIES.

HE HAS BUILT THE FIRST NEW PARK HERE IN FIFTEEN YEARS. . . AND HE HAS PAVED MORE STREETS AND PLANTED MORE TREES THAN IN ALL OF THE LAST SEVENTEEN YEARS. AND THE LIST GOES ON -- THREE NEW YOUTH CENTERS, SYNCHRONIZED TRAFFIC CONTROL, AND UNPRECEDENTED AND PROGRESSIVE NEW LABOR CONTRACTS.

WHAT IT ALL ADDS UP TO IS A MORE DECENT PLACE FOR PEOPLE TO LIVE. . . A PLACE WHERE CHILDREN CAN PLAY IN PARKS INSTEAD OF STREETS. . . WHERE PEOPLE WAIT IN SHELTERED STOPS FOR NEW BUSES THAT COME ON TIME. . . WHERE GARBAGE IS COLLECTED WHEN YOU PUT IT OUT. . . A PLACE WHERE LIFE IS MORE THAN A DAILY STRUGGLE AGAINST ANNOYANCE AND FRUSTRATION. WITH SO LITTLE SUPPORT FROM BEYOND YOUR BORDERS, IT IS AMAZING THAT YOUR MAYOR HAS DONE SO MUCH. AND IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT THERE REMAINS SO MUCH TO DO.

DICK ASSARO HAS MADE URBAN RENEWAL WORK IN UTICA. . . BUT HE CANNOT FIND THE FUNDS TO BUILD AN ESSENTIAL HIGHWAY LINK BETWEEN NORTHERN NEW YORK AND THE SOUTH. THAT REQUIRES FEDERAL AID. AND SO THE NU-WAY REMAINS A REALITY ON PAPER ALONE.

DICK ASSARO HAS CUT THE CRIME RATE, BUT HE CANNOT CUT THE RED TAPE WHICH STILL DENIES YOUR CITY A STATE UNIVERSITY. THAT REQUIRES STATE ACTION. AND SO THE LAND WHERE YOUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS SHOULD ALREADY BE LEARNING LIES EMPTY AND WAITING.

DICK ASSARO HAS ENABLED HIS CITY TO BUILD AND PAVE AND PLANT, BUT HE CANNOT COMBAT AN UNEMPLOYMENT RATE OF 7%. THAT REQUIRES FAR-REACHING NATIONAL POLICIES. . . AND SO THOUSANDS OF WORKERS IN UTICA ARE STILL RECEIVING UNEMPLOYMENT CHECKS INSTEAD OF PAYCHECKS.

EVERY LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CITIES. THAT'S WHAT OUR CHILDREN LEARN IN SCHOOL. THEY LEARN THAT OUR SOCIETY DIVIDES ITS BURDENS AMONG UNITS OF GOVERNMENT. . . THAT THE AMERICAN SYSTEM ONLY WORKS IF EVERY LEVEL DOES ITS JOB. IT'S CALLED DEMOCRACY. IT'S A PARTNERSHIP. BUT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ISN'T DOING ITS PART.

AND THAT'S WHY THIS COUNTRY IS GOING TO PUT A DEMOCRAT BACK IN THE WHITE HOUSE IN NOVEMBER OF 1972.

THE PEOPLE OF UTICA DESERVE MORE THAN ELOQUENT SPEECHES AND SINCERE PROMISES. NO PROMISE EVER BUILT A HOUSING PROJECT. NO SPEECH EVER STOPPED A CRIME. ONLY THE ENERGY AND INGENUITY AND COMMITMENT OF LEADERS LIKE DICK ASSARO CAN TAKE THE CREDIT FOR THOSE ADVANCES. NOW WE NEED THE SAME KIND OF LEADERSHIP TO MAKE THIS COUNTRY BETTER THAN IT IS. . . TO MAKE IT AS GOOD AND AS GREAT AS WE KNOW IT CAN BE. THAT IS THE PROMISE OF AMERICA. . . A PROMISE WHICH THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION HAS BROKEN AGAIN AND AGAIN.

IN 1965, RICHARD NIXON TOLD THE AMERICAN PEOPLE: "IF OUR CITIES ARE TO BE LIVABLE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION, WE CAN DELAY NO LONGER IN LAUNCHING NEW APPROACHES TO THE PROBLEMS THAT BESET THEM." BUT THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS DELAYED FOR THREE YEARS. THEY ESTABLISHED A COUNCIL ON URBAN AFFAIRS FOUR DAYS AFTER THE PRESIDENT TOOK OFFICE, BUT IT WAS QUIETLY DISBANDED IN JULY OF 1970 -- AND WITH IT WENT SOME OF THE HOPE THAT WE COULD MOVE OUR CITIES FORWARD ONCE AGAIN.

LEADERSHIP IN URBAN ACTION PASSED BY DEFAULT TO THE DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS, AND STRONG NEW LEGISLATION CHALLENGED THE PRESIDENT TO KEEP HIS PROMISE. BUT THAT LEGISLATION WAS CONSISTENTLY OPPOSED AND VETOED.

-- THE PRESIDENT FROZE ALL SPENDING ON MODEL CITIES AND THE NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IN 1969.

-- HE VETOED AN \$18 BILLION APPROPRIATION FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN AUGUST OF 1970.

-- AND IN MARCH OF 1971, RICHARD NIXON REFUSED TO SPEND \$900 MILLION ALREADY APPROPRIATED BY THE CONGRESS FOR URBAN RENEWAL, FOR WATER AND SEWAGE TREATMENT, AND FOR PUBLIC HOUSING.

THESE BILLS WEREN'T PASSED TO MAKE A PARADISE OUT OF CITIES. THEY WERE PASSED TO MAKE CITIES LIVABLE. . . TO PUT LEARNING BACK IN SCHOOLS AND GLASS BACK IN WINDOWS AND SAFETY BACK ON STREETS. . . TO PICK UP GARBAGE AND PUT DOWN CRIME AND MAKE THE AIR FIT TO BREATHE. THEY WERE PASSED FOR THE SAKE OF URBAN SURVIVAL. AND THEY WERE ALL CUT OR OPPOSED.

THAT OPPOSITION -- THAT REFUSAL TO ANSWER THE URGENT CRY FOR HELP -- HAS COST OUR CITIES DEARLY.

IT HAS COST US PERSONAL SAFETY AND PERSONAL PROPERTY. . . AS NATIONAL CRIME RATES CONTINUE TO SOAR.

IT HAS COST US THE HEALTH OF COUNTLESS YOUNG AMERICANS. . . AS DRUG ABUSE SPREADS FROM INNER CITY INTO A NATIONAL DISEASE. RICHARD NIXON PROMISED THIS NATION "A FEDERAL ASSAULT ON DRUG ABUSE" IN 1968 -- AND IN 1969 AND IN 1970, HE OPPOSED THE DRUG ABUSE EDUCATION ACT. . . HE OPPOSED SENATE AMENDMENTS TO THE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT FOR COMMUNITY DRUG PROGRAMS. . . AND HE OPPOSED LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON DRUG ABUSE.

AND THIS KIND OF NEGLECT HAS ALSO LED TO FURTHER DETERIORATION IN THE ENVIRONMENT. . . AS 60 BILLION TONS OF FILTH HAVE BEEN POURED INTO OUR RIVERS AND COUGHED INTO THE AIR SINCE THE PRESIDENT TOOK OFFICE. YET HE OPPOSED LEGISLATION TO EXPAND THE RIGHTS OF CITIZENS TO BRING ENVIRONMENTAL SUITS. . . AND HE IMPOUNDED ALMOST \$700 MILLION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION PROGRAMS.

AND HIS NEGLECT HAS COST US MORE. IT HAS COST US THE JOB SECURITY OF THE AMERICAN WORKER. . . AS UNEMPLOYMENT IN THIS COUNTRY HAS CLIMBED SINCE 1969 FROM 3½% TO MORE THAN 6% -- AND TO 7% IN UTICA.

RICHARD NIXON TOLD THE NATION IN OCTOBER OF 1968: " I HAVE PLEDGED TO CREATE FIFTEEN MILLION JOBS IN THE NEXT FOUR YEARS." THREE MILLION WORKERS HAVE LOST THEIR JOBS SINCE HE MADE THAT PROMISE. WE'RE MOVING BACKWARDS UNDER THIS ADMINISTRATION. . . AND THE PRESIDENT'S NEW PROMISE. . . HIS BEST HOPE NOW. . . IS AN UNEMPLOYMENT RATE 40% HIGHER THAN IT WAS WHEN HE TOOK OFFICE.

OUR CITIES CAN'T ENDURE ANOTHER FOUR YEARS OF GOVERNMENT BY IMPULSE. . . OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WHO FINALLY ACT ONLY IN THE FACE OF THE EMERGENCIES THEIR OWN FAILURES HAVE CREATED.

DICK ASSARO HAS FOUGHT HARD AND EVEN SUCCESSFULLY FOR THE PEOPLE OF UTICA. BUT HE CANNOT DO ENOUGH WITHOUT THE KIND OF NATIONAL LEADERSHIP WHICH WILL FIGHT WITH HIM INSTEAD OF AGAINST HIM. AND EVERY CITY COULD DO SO MUCH MORE WITH MORE HELP FROM WASHINGTON.

WE KNOW WHAT PROGRAMS ARE NEEDED BECAUSE THEY HAVE BEEN OUTLINED IN HUNDREDS OF REPORTS AND HEARINGS. WE KNOW WHAT LAWS HAVE TO BE ENACTED -- BECAUSE MOST OF THEM ARE ALREADY WRITTEN. AND WE KNOW THE VITAL FIRST STEP. . . REVENUE SHARING.

THE PRESIDENT PROMISED US THAT, TOO. HE PROMISED US REVENUE SHARING IN HIS STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE LAST JANUARY. HE CALLED IT THE SECOND AMERICAN REVOLUTION. BUT THAT REVOLUTION SUDDENLY ENDED ON AUGUST 15, WHEN REVENUE SHARING WAS POSTPONED. IS THAT ANY WAY TO RUN A REVOLUTION? WHAT IF GEORGE WASHINGTON HAD ANNOUNCED A "SLIGHT DELAY" TO THE TROOPS AT YORKTOWN? WE WOULD ALL BE BRITISH SUBJECTS IN 1971.

SO FINDING ANSWERS IS NO LONGER THE PROBLEM. IF WE DO NOT KNOW BY NOW WHAT MUST BE DONE, THEN WE WILL NEVER KNOW IT OR DO IT. OUR REAL CHALLENGE IS TO ELECT LEADERSHIP WHICH WILL TURN OUR HOPES INTO CONCRETE PLANS.

AND YOU CAN BEGIN HERE IN UTICA BY VOTING FOR DICK ASSARO NEXT WEEK. HE HAS A RIGHT TO YOUR SUPPORT -- NOT ONLY BECAUSE HE'S BEEN SUCH A GOOD MAYOR -- BUT BECAUSE HE HAS TAUGHT US SOMETHING ABOUT ALL OF OUR CITIES. HE HAS SHOWN US THAT URBAN SURVIVAL IS MORE THAN A DESPERATE LAST CHANCE. . . THAT CITIES CAN MOVE BEYOND SURVIVAL. . . TOWARD GROWTH AND PROGRESS, AND TOWARD A DECENT LIFE FOR EVERY CITIZEN.

THAT'S THE REAL HOPE OF OUR FREE SYSTEM. . . THE HOPE THAT DREW MY FATHER FROM THE OPPRESSION OF EASTERN EUROPE TO THE VILLAGE OF RUMFORD, MAINE. . . THE HOPE THAT DREW A GENERATION OF AMERICANS TO UTICA AND THE ERIE CANAL, AND TO THE CHALLENGE OF THE WEST.



DICK ASSARO CAN HELP US REALIZE THAT HOPE. HE CANNOT PUT RESPONSIBLE LEADERSHIP BACK IN WASHINGTON BY HIMSELF. . . BUT HE HAS SHOWN US THAT THE RIGHT MAYOR CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE. AND WHAT A DIFFERENCE THE RIGHT PRESIDENT COULD MAKE.

I MAY BE BACK IN A WHILE TO TELL YOU MORE ABOUT THAT.

BUT THIS IS DICK'S NIGHT AND HE DESERVES IT. AND THE PEOPLE OF UTICA DESERVE FOUR MORE YEARS OF HIS LEADERSHIP.

YOU CAN GIVE HIM THOSE FOUR YEARS.

AND THEN, TOGETHER, WE CAN WORK TO GIVE HIM A PARTNER IN WASHINGTON WHO WILL HELP US REBUILD ALL OUR CITIES.

TOGETHER, LET US DO THAT MUCH. AND THEN, TOGETHER, WE CAN DO SO MUCH MORE.

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