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Speeches

Edmund S. Muskie Papers

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## Remarks by Senator Edmund S. Muskie to the New Hampshire Democrats

Edmund S. Muskie

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JUST A FEW DAYS AGO, THE UNION LEADER ENDORSED SAM YORTY. I WAS SO ENCOURAGED THAT I DECIDED TO COME UP HERE AND VISIT WITH YOU THIS WEEKEND. AND I'M GRATEFUL TO EACH OF YOU FOR SPENDING SOME TIME WITH ME.

IT'S ALSO GOOD TO BE HOME AGAIN. . . TO BE BACK IN NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND. I'VE TRAVELLED TO TWENTY STATES ACROSS THE NATION SINCE LABOR DAY. I'VE PROBABLY GIVEN A HUNDRED SPEECHES. AND THE LONGER I'M AWAY THE CLOSER I FEEL TO HOME.

I'VE FOUND THAT MOST AMERICANS SHARE THE DEEPEST VALUES I FIRST LEARNED HERE IN NEW ENGLAND.

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I'VE FOUND THAT OUR PEOPLE -- WHOEVER THEY ARE -- STILL HAVE A STRONG SENSE OF DECENCY ABOUT EACH OTHER.

I THINK THEY WOULD LIKE TO RESPOND. . . TO REACH OUT TO OTHER AMERICANS, TO DIFFERENT KINDS OF AMERICANS, EVEN TO AMERICANS WHO MAY SEEM AT ODDS WITH THEM. AND SO I BELIEVE WHAT I HAVE ALWAYS BELIEVED -- AND I BELIEVE IT EVEN MORE STRONGLY AFTER MY TRAVELS OF THE LAST TWO MONTHS. THE FUNDAMENTAL VALUES OF OUR HERITAGE AND OUR HISTORY ARE STILL VITAL AND STILL WORKABLE -- AND THEY CAN POINT THE WAY TO SOLUTIONS FOR EVEN OUR MOST DIFFICULT PROBLEMS.

I BELIEVE IN THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. . . AS I HAVE ALWAYS BELIEVED IN THE PEOPLE OF NEW ENGLAND.

I BELIEVE WE HAVE SHORTCOMINGS AND WEAKNESSES. . . THAT AT OUR WORST, WE ARE NOT TOO GOOD.

BUT I ALSO BELIEVE THAT AT OUR BEST, WE ARE CAPABLE OF SOMETHING BETTER THAN ANYBODY ELSE HAS EVER PRODUCED IN ANY OTHER COUNTRY. SO BEYOND THE SPECIFIC ISSUES AND BEHIND THE POLITICAL RHETORIC, THIS IS OUR CHALLENGE NOW -- TO PROVE THAT SOMEWHERE ON THIS PLANET, IT IS POSSIBLE FOR A SOCIETY TO PUT JUSTICE WITHIN THE REACH OF EVEN THE LEAST OF ITS CITIZENS.

THAT'S WHAT AMERICA HAS BEEN WORKING FOR THROUGH ALMOST TWO CENTURIES.

AND THAT IS WHAT EACH OF US MUST WORK FOR IN THE MONTHS AHEAD.

IT WILL BE A TOUGH AND DIFFICULT EFFORT. . . BUT ANY EFFORT WORTH MAKING USUALLY IS.

AND THE RIGHT KIND OF CAMPAIGN CAN BE SO REWARDING -- NOT MERELY IN POLITICAL GAIN -- BUT IN WHAT WE CAN ACCOMPLISH TOGETHER TO EASE SO MUCH VERY HUMAN PAIN:

-- THE PAIN OF PARENTS WHO SEE SONS SENT OFF TO FIGHT AND PERHAPS TO DIE -- NOT FOR A CAUSE -- BUT FOR A MISTAKE.

-- THE PAIN OF THE MINORITY WHO ARE BLACK AND THE MAJORITY WHO ARE WOMEN WHEN THEY FIND THEMSELVES EQUAL IN LAW, BUT NOT IN LIFE.



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-- THE PAIN OF WORKERS WITHOUT WORK AND SENIOR CITIZENS WITHOUT MEDICAL CARE AND THE VAST MAJORITY OF AMERICANS WHO WORRY WHEN THIS COUNTRY IS TROUBLED OR DIVIDED.

AND WE CAN CHANGE THAT -- NOT JUST BECAUSE WE ARE DEMOCRATS OR NEW ENGLANDERS -- BUT BECAUSE WE SHARE A COMMON HOPE AND A COMMON RESOLVE -- TO USE THE NEXT YEAR TO BEGIN AGAIN TO MAKE OUR NATION AS GREAT AND AS GOOD AS IT CAN BE.

I KNOW YOU ARE READY TO HELP -- AND I AM GRATEFUL.

FOR MY PART, I LOOK FORWARD TO BEGINNING AT HOME IN NEW ENGLAND -- DURING WHAT JOHN KENNEDY CALLED "THOSE FIRST SNOWY DAYS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE."

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