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3-24-1972

## **Press Release - Muskie Blasts President on Aging Report**

Edmund S. Muskie

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# MUSKIE *News*

1972 K STREET, N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

TELEPHONE (202) USA 1972

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Friday, March 24**

**CONTACT: Dick Stewart  
Hadley Roff  
872-1972**

## **MUSKIE BLASTS PRESIDENT ON AGING REPORT**

Senator Edmund S. Muskie today (3/25) blasted the President's Message on Aging as a "deep and tragic disappointment."

"It is simply a tortuous exercise in rhetoric instead of remedies for problems confronting millions of older Americans," the Senator said in a statement from his Senate office.

The report's "most fundamental weakness," he emphasized, "is that it offers no hope for solving the number one problem facing the elderly -- inadequate income."

He characterized the President's proposal of a five percent increase in Social Security as "grossly inadequate," pointing out "One million more elderly live below the poverty line today than did in 1968."

He pointed to his own proposal for a 20 percent increase in Social Security benefits, and said his Senate Subcommittee on Health of the Elderly would look into health aspects of the President's message.

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