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Senator Edmund S. Muskie Time Magazine Article on the Sugar Beet Industry in Maine

Edmund S. Muskie

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It is proper that the State Legislature take whatever steps it feels appropriate to protect the State's interests and the integrity of the agencies of the State. There is reason to believe, however, that there were political overtones in the Legislature's decision to investigate the financing of Maine Sugar Beet Industries.

It is essential that we have the facts bearing on public decisions, but in gathering those facts we should not endanger the welfare of the people of the State. We should not endanger the prospects of survival of the sugar beet industry in Aroostook County. Finally, we should not endanger the credibility of the Maine Industrial Building Authority that the Legislature presumably is trying to help.

I hope that the legislative committee that carries the investigation forward bears these responsibilities in mind.

It is as important that we help support the development of the sugar beet industry and maintain the sugar beet allotment, as it is to determine the causes of the present difficulties with the Maine Sugar Beet Industries.

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