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Press Release - Statement by Senator Edmund S. Muskie Announcing His Candidacy for Re-Election to The United States Senate from Maine

Edmund S. Muskie

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Maine 4

FOR RELEASE 6 p.m., February 16, 1970

Statement by Senator Edmund S. Muskie
Announcing His Candidacy for Re-election to
The United States Senate from Maine
WGAN Studios, Portland, Maine
February 16, 1970

I have invited you to join me today for the purpose of making an announcement. It will probably surprise no one, but it is a necessary formality. I am a candidate for re-election to the United States Senate. Sixteen years ago, I announced my decision to run for Governor of Maine. Since that time, I have served the people of Maine as Governor and as a United States Senator, working to improve the quality of life for every Maine citizen--through economic development, protection of our environment, improved government efficiency, and by trying to build an atmosphere of trust and confidence in the relationship between government and people and between people.

Maine in 1970 is different from Maine in 1954, or in 1958 when I sought election to the Senate, or in 1964 when I announced my candidacy for a second term. And yet, although the immediate problems change, the fundamental issues are not very different from what they were 15 or 150 years ago.

Can men and women live and work together in an organized, civilized society, in an atmosphere of mutual trust?

Can government be effective, responsible and responsive as we seek to improve the quality of all our lives?

Can we restore peace among the nations of the earth, and help others as well as ourselves to overcome the evils of disease, hunger, poverty and strife?

Our decisions in the 1970's will determine what kind of a State, nation and world our children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren will inherit. Our decisions may determine whether man will survive on this earth.

We, in Maine, have a unique opportunity to contribute to those decisions by what we do here and by what we say to others.

We must work to protect the unique and valuable qualities of life in Maine, and to ensure that all Maine citizens have the opportunity to share in that life.

We must determine what kind of industry is best suited to Maine, and ensure that all Maine workers have job opportunities which make the best and full use of their skills.

We must seek to improve the quality of education in Maine, and ensure that every Maine child has an opportunity for a quality education.

We must provide a future for young people in Maine, and ensure that young people have a part in shaping that future.

We must expand our capacity to provide housing, health services and the necessities of life for all, and ensure that those who need help in escaping the shackles of poverty can receive that help with dignity.

And we must play our part as citizens of the United States in contributing to the restoration of the environment, the restoration of peace and public safety in our communities, the expansion of equal opportunity and equal justice, the relaxation of tensions and the reduction of the arms race between nations, and the development of a common sense of purpose in our approach to public problems.

This is the fifth time I have placed myself and my record before the voters of Maine as a candidate for office. In each of the previous campaigns, my beliefs and my views, my character and my talents have been tested and weighed in the give and take of a political campaign. I have found the experience stimulating and educational. I look forward to the coming campaign: --As an opportunity to engage in a thorough public discussion of the issues; --as a means of learning anew what the people of Maine think, need and want; and, last but not least--as a chance to spend more time in Maine, to greet old friends and meet new friends. I shall travel to every county, and to as many towns and cities as possible. I intend to listen as well as talk. I ask only that citizens of Maine listen to what I have to say, evaluate my record and my proposals objectively and carefully, and judge my candidacy accordingly.
