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Press Release - Senator Edmund S. Muskie Urged National Budget to Reflect Actual Human Needs

Edmund S. Muskie

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From the Office of
SENATOR EDMUND S. MUSKIE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 24, 1970

Senator Edmund S. Muskie today noted budget cuts in health care, education, pollution control, as well as record inflation, and urged that the national budget reflect actual human needs.

Speaking before the Committee on National Priorities of the Democratic Policy Council, the Senator said that national priorities are meaningless if the national budget does not reflect them. He urged revamping the budget itself.

Senator Muskie said, "First, we must make more than token changes in the level of military spending. We cannot have guns and butter in the manner we have always thought possible. We must examine every request for military spending with a new skepticism, asking not whether there is a less expensive military substitute, but whether there is a more effective non-military substitute. We must replace the spiraling costs of new weapons and greater overkill, with genuine, persistent efforts at arms control. We must take honest risks in pursuit of peace and disarmament.

"Second, our priorities must be the priorities of the total human environment--our air water and land resources, our health, our homes, and our communities--not the priorities of faster planes, mightier weapons, and more ventures into space.

"Third, we must make it clear that the unemployment caused by recession is no cure for the rising prices of inflation. Wage and price guidelines must take precedence over men and women thrown out of work.

"Finally, the Democratic Party must insist that the Federal budget reflect the priorities we proclaim. There is no room in our society for empty promises and false commitments.

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