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## **Press Release - Muskie Asks AAAS to Review Gofman-Tamplin Controversy**

Edmund S. Muskie

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# MUSKIE

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FOR RELEASE

IMMEDIATELY  
August 19, 1970

## MUSKIE ASKS AAAS TO REVIEW GOFMAN-TAMPLIN CONTROVERSY

Questioning the objectivity of an Atomic Energy Commission report, Senator Edmund S. Muskie (D-Maine) has asked the American Association for the Advancement of Science to conduct an independent review of the Gofman-Tamplin controversy.

In a letter to the AAAS President, Dr. Athelstan Spilhaus, Senator Muskie said that an AEC staff report "does not appear to be an unbiased review of the allegations" made by Drs. John Gofman and Arthur Tamplin of the Lawrence Radiation Laboratory in Livermore, California.

The two scientists allegedly have been harassed and intimidated for criticizing the Atomic Energy Commission and its radiation standards. The men presented their views in November 1969 before the Subcommittee on Air and Water Pollution, of which Senator Muskie is chairman.

The AEC inquiry, "conducted as it was by people in disagreement with the scientific conclusions of Drs. Gofman and Tamplin, was of questionable objectivity," Senator Muskie wrote Dr. Spilhaus.

"In order to get an independent review of these charges of harassment and reprisal," Senator Muskie said, "I am asking that the American Association for the Advancement of Science undertake a complete examination of the allegations made by Drs. Gofman and Tamplin. You are invited to make a report on this investigation, on behalf of the AAAS, at public hearing of the Subcommittee on Air and Water Pollution, Committee on Public Works.

"Thank you for your cooperation in reviewing this potential threat to free and open discussion of scientific issues."

Senator Muskie has written to Rep. Chet Holifield, chairman of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, explaining why he considered the AEC staff report biased. He told the Congressman that the report had included material which disputed Dr. Gofman and Dr. Tamplin's scientific conclusions.

"While the Subcommittee on Air and Water Pollution is concerned with the scientific conclusions of Drs. Gofman and Tamplin, those conclusions were not relevant to my inquiry. Their judgment and judgments of others who share their view will be tested in a scientific community by people competent to judge their methods and conclusions.

"Members of the Atomic Energy Commission staff who conducted the investigation should have limited their report to the allegations and facts surrounding those allegations. Their failure in this regard leads to the conclusion of possible bias," the Senator told Mr. Holifield.

Mr. Muskie also wrote Ralph Nader, who had asked him to look into the matter. His letter to Mr. Nader told him of the progress of the inquiry.

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