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Statement of Senator Edmund S. Muskie on the Marijuana Commission Report

Edmund S. Muskie

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STATEMENT OF SENATOR EDMUND S. MUSKIE

MARIJUANA COMMISSION REPORT

The recommendations of the National Commission on Marijuana and Drug Abuse represent a progressive approach toward the question of marijuana.

I was disappointed that the President said he would reject the Commission's recommendations if its report took a progressive approach to the marijuana question.

As the Commission report points out, twenty-four million Americans over the age of twelve have used marijuana. And that fact alone is reason enough for us to take a hard look at our laws to control it.

I agree with the Commission's recommendation that marijuana should not be legalized at this time. I also agree with the recommendation that felony penalties should be retained for the cultivation or trafficking of large amounts of marijuana.

And I support the recommendations that all penalties should be removed for the possession of small amounts of marijuana for personal use and for the distribution in private of small amounts of marijuana for no remuneration or for insignificant remuneration involving no profit.

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March, 1972