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3-12-1972

Statement by Senator Edmund S. Muskie on Disclosure of Campaign Contributions

Edmund S. Muskie

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STATEMENT BY SENATOR EDMUND S. MUSKIE
TAMPA, FLORIDA - MARCH 12, 1972

I have today directed my staff to disclose completely all contributions to my campaign. This will mark a resumption of the practice I initiated in June of 1970, when I was the first Presidential candidate to disclose.

Within ten days, I will disclose all contributions to my campaign from January 4, 1972 -- the day on which I formally announced my candidacy -- to date. As soon thereafter as the data can be assembled, I will disclose all contributions made from October 21, 1970 -- the date of my last public report -- to January 4, 1972. In addition, at the earliest possible date, I will disclose all contributions made between today and April 7, 1972, when the federal disclosure law I supported in the Senate becomes effective.

I am resuming disclosure for two reasons: first, enough of the other Democratic candidates have indicated their willingness to join in public disclosure that the condition that led me to suspend in late 1970 -- the fact that I was the only one following this practice -- no longer exists. I am confident that in a matter of days all Democratic candidates will have made the same commitment I am making today.

Second, it is my hope that we Democrats can collectively convince the President to follow our lead.

In the wake of recent revelations of deep special interest penetration into government through political contributions, I believe there is an overriding necessity for every candidate to reveal the sources of his financing. The recent charges about Nixon Administration favoritism for ITT have again shaken the confidence of Americans in the integrity of the political process and the even-handedness of government.

Therefore, I call on the President to direct the chairman of the Republican National Committee to cooperate with the chairman of the Democratic National Committee to insure full and fair disclosure by all candidates for the Presidency.

I am gratified that other Democratic contenders have disclosed, as I did in 1970 and am doing now. I hope the President will follow our lead.

I hope no candidate will seek to escape disclosure at a time when what is at stake is nothing less than trust of the American people in the American system of government.

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