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## **Statement by Senator Edmund S. Muskie on the Nixon Administration's Support of Special Interest Groups**

Edmund S. Muskie

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# MUSKIE News

1972 K STREET, N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

TELEPHONE (202) USA 1972

FOR RELEASE: Monday, CONTACT: Dick Stewart  
March 20, 1972 Hadley Roff  
(Simultaneously with the report (home: 536-6043)  
of the Office of Science and  
Technology on "Regulatory Effects  
on Costs of Automotive Transportation")

## STATEMENT BY SENATOR EDMUND S. MUSKIE

Once again, the Nixon Administration is putting special interest ahead of public interest.

It is siding with the auto companies to delay implementation of the Clean Air legislation, which I wrote, and which I believe is essential if we are to prevent the further poisoning of our air.

The White House report of the Office of Science and Technology simply goes along with the attack on the legislation by General Motors, Chrysler and Ford.

Those companies, of course, are big contributors to the Republican Party. In 1968, General Motors' executives gave \$114,675 to the Republicans; Chrysler management gave \$30,550 and Ford management provided \$87,100.

Now these companies seek to escape the 1975 deadline for clean engines as established in my legislation.

Reportedly, they will ask for a one-year continuance, and the White House report, it seems to me, encourages such procrastination.

Furthermore, it encourages them to use politics as a means to accommodate what essentially is a serious problem of public health.

The companies already have fumed, fiddled and fooled around too long in the development of clean engines.

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The Administration should insist on a single and not a double standard for all automobiles. The Clean Air legislation establishes a firm standard -- 90 percent reduction of carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons. The White House report, on the other hand, suggests cars in presently smog-free areas can be exempted.

The report serves big business. It puts the interests of the boardrooms ahead of those of Main Street.

STATEMENT BY SENATOR EDWARD J. MURKIN

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around and around in the development of clean engines.