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Press Release - Muskie Hails Maine Leadership

Edmund S. Muskie

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Press Release

MAINE FOR MUSKIE

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For Release

6:30 P.M.

Saturday, October 3, 1970

MUSKIE HAILS MAINE LEADERSHIP

Bangor, Maine--Senator Edmund S. Muskie (D-Maine) told Maine labor leaders tonight the state possesses "progressive, concerned and effective" Democratic leadership--"leadership that is doing its very best to keep the problems of the national economy from seriously harming the people of Maine."

Senator Muskie said those problems included a jump in the rate of inflation from $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, some interest rates that are at their highest level since the Civil War, and ever-increasing unemployment.

In remarks prepared for the Greater Bangor COPE dinner, Senator Muskie urged the labor leaders to "look at the record--the record of a governor like Ken Curtis--

"--12,000 new jobs;

"--94 new industries;

"Minimum wages up to \$1.60"

"--Improvements in workmen's compensation and unemployment benefits and job safety regulations."

Senator Muskie told his audience he valued the endorsement COPE gave Democratic candidates "in this crucial election year."

He said that labor has won decent and well-paying jobs, fair and safe working conditions as well as adequate unemployment and disability insurance through the Democratic Party's commitment and "the pride and solidarity of the labor movement."

That movement, he added, was "built in Maine by men of independence, men of energy, men who understood that the best protection of union achievements was the election of responsible Democrats."

Senator Muskie criticized what he called "more than 18 months of deliberately restrictive monetary and fiscal policy by the administration in Washington..." He pointed out that unemployment in Maine is back up to 6.7 per cent now after it had dropped from 8.4 per cent in Maine to 4.1 per cent after the eight years of Democratic leadership under Presidents Kennedy and Johnson.

"It is high time," Senator Muskie said, "that we pursue national policies of economic growth--policies aimed at price stability and maximum employment--policies in the tradition of those which stimulated Maine's economy in the 1960's to develop at four times its rate in the 1950's."

Earlier in the day Saturday, Senator Muskie campaigned in Rockland, Camden and Belfast.