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**Press Release - Statement by Senator Edmund S. Muskie on
President Nixon's Veto of the Campaign Broadcast Reform Act**

Edmund S. Muskie

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FOR RELEASE

IMMEDIATELY
OCTOBER 13, 1970

STATEMENT BY SENATOR EDMUND S. MUSKIE ON PRESIDENT
NIXON'S VETO OF THE CAMPAIGN BROADCAST REFORM ACT

Waterville, Maine -- "President Nixon has vetoed the first major election reform legislation in forty-five years. The President cannot avoid the fundamental issue in that Act. The major cost in campaigning today is television and radio. It is also the fastest growing part of campaign budgets. To suggest that we should not deal with this problem until we have dealt with all the others is to dodge the issue. If we do not act to halt the spiralling cost of campaign broadcast advertising, men and women of modest means will not be able to run for major office.

This is a clear-out effort by President Nixon and the Republican Party to make the winning of elections a product of economic power and the capacity to dominate the communications media. With one stroke of his pen, the President acted to prevent presidential campaign debates and to eliminate the chance for equality of opportunity in presenting different points of view through the most powerful means of communication available to candidates today.

The issue is not one of advantages between incumbents and challengers, or rural districts versus urban districts. The issue is one of equality of opportunity for candidates in the same election districts in purchasing time on commercial radio and television stations. The Campaign Broadcast Reform Act would have helped insure that equality. The President would deny it."
