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10-23-1970

Press Release - Muskie Draws Conclusions from Machiasport Hearings

Edmund S. Muskie

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MUSKIE

Maine

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FOR RELEASE

IMMEDIATELY
OCTOBER 23, 1970

MUSKIE DRAWS CONCLUSIONS FROM MACHIASPORT HEARINGS

Portland, Maine -- Senator Edmund S. Muskie (D-Maine) today warned the people of Maine to put a "tight harness on coastal pollution" and to refuse to accept "unnecessary risks to our coastal environment -- risks of permitting technology to function without effective controls."

Speaking to the Portland (Me.) Rotary Club, Senator Muskie described the lessons of the hearings held by the Senate Subcommittee on Air and Water Pollution at Machiasport, on September 8 and 9. The hearings were called to explore the dilemma of oil and the coastal environment.

Senator Muskie said that "if the oil industry is permitted to come to Maine, it should do so only on terms which Maine writes -- terms which demand the respect of that industry not only for our ports and our work force, but for our environment as well. And if those terms cannot be met, then oil should not now come to Machiasport."

Senator Muskie said the record of the hearings showed that "no methods presently exist which would either effectively foreclose the possibility of massive oil spills or sufficiently clean them up if they were to occur."

Noting that "our natural reaction to the problems of disadvantaged people -- a reaction of wholehearted welcome to any new industry -- might seriously threaten the natural resources upon which so much else in our State depends," Senator Muskie told the people of Maine that "we should avoid repeating along our coast the mistakes we have already made with respect to so many of our resources and so much of our environment -- the mistakes of abusing our surroundings and ultimately ourselves by our ignorance and our haste."
