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Statement by Senator Edmund S. Muskie Announcing Withdrawal from Campaign

Edmund S. Muskie

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MUSKIE

April 27, 1972

Maine

STATEMENT BY SENATOR EDMUND S. MUSKIE

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FOR RELEASE

Four months ago I announced my candidacy for the Presidency.

I committed myself to run in the first eight Presidential primaries, and in as many more as I could within the limits of my time, energy, and available financial resources.

That strategy has produced two primary victories and over 135 delegates -- the second best record of any of the candidates to date.

However, it was a mistake. No other candidate made a similar commitment.

It required that I make a major effort and a major expenditure of resources in every primary with a maximum impact in none. Nowhere were the consequences of such a strategy more clearly demonstrated than in Wisconsin, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania -- diminishing results and diminishing resources.

I have made the decision, therefore, to withdraw from active participation in the remaining Presidential primaries. I do so with regret, but I have no choice. I do not have the money to continue.

I realize that this decision reduces my prospects in the campaign. Nevertheless, at the urging of friends and supporters around the country, I do not withdraw my candidacy.

They have given me their support, often at great sacrifice.

They are concerned about the future leadership of our country.

They vigorously assert their belief in my ability to contribute to it and my duty to do so.

My name will continue to be on the ballot in several of the remaining primaries.

Supporters in some of those states and in non-primary states have indicated their desire to continue working in my behalf. I will, of course, welcome and appreciate those efforts.

I realize also that my change in plans will have an impact on those who are already committed to me. I want them to know that they should feel free to re-assess their commitments.

As for myself, I will continue to speak out on the issues, around the country and from the Senate floor. I will be more actively involved in legislative work, pressing

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MEMORANDUM

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for the changes in public policy which I have been urging in the course of the campaign.

The American people, in the primaries to date, have clearly indicated their determination to achieve at least four basic goals:

1. An end to the war in Vietnam.
2. An anti-inflation policy which controls prices as well as wages, and which produces jobs instead of unemployment.
3. A more equitable distribution of the burdens and the benefits of our society.
4. An open government which confides in them, responds to their needs and opinions, and which is free from the corrupting influence of special interests.

Those goals are my goals as well, and I will continue to fight for them. To achieve them requires the defeat of Richard Nixon in November. I am committed to that objective.

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