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10-25-1970

## **Press Release - Muskie Denies 'Generation Gap'**

Edmund S. Muskie

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# Press Release

## MAINE FOR MUSKIE

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For Immediate Release  
Sunday, October 25, 1970

### MUSKIE DENIES 'GENERATION GAP'

Fort Kent, Maine---Senator Edmund S. Muskie (D-Maine) said Sunday night that he believes there "really is no generation gap in this country between parents and their children.

"Certainly there are emotions, attitudes, points of view about particular subjects on which reasonable people may differ," The Senator said in a speech before the Catholic Order of Foresters in Fort Kent.

But Senator Muskie said he could not accept the idea that there is "one set of values for younger people and another set for older people." All Americans, he said, "want America to remain a free and open society--a society in which the opportunity exists to be better than even you thought you could be."

He related a recent visit he had in Washington from Rick Brodie, a young man who confronted him on the speaker's platform during his vice presidential campaign in 1968 in Pennsylvania. At that time the young man spoke his mind--at Mr. Muskie's invitation--and the Senator said "what he wanted was what we all want--a peaceful America, a united America, a secure America. The words may have been different but underneath the values were the same."

More than a year and a half later, Rick Brodie came to see Senator Muskie. "He was obviously troubled," the Senator said.

"He said he still considered himself a radical. But he was against violence as a way to achieve the kinds of change he thought necessary to improve life in this country."

The Senator told him he had three alternatives: he could ignore the problems if he felt they were hopeless; he could seek violent change; or he could "learn the skills and develop the ability to make our system work..."

He could learn "to reason with people, to persuade them in a sensible way--because no system will respond instantly to the desires, the opinions or the points of view of any single member.

"I told him that has been my way for a quarter of a century of political life--getting people to work together toward common objectives--objectives based on values we share and on a mutual appreciation of what is right and what is not.

"That way has worked--not so much in terms of offering personal success--but in terms of responding effectively to the legitimate problems and needs of people."