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Statement by Senator Edmund S. Muskie Following President Nixon's State of the Union Message

Edmund S. Muskie

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**STATEMENT BY SENATOR EDMUND S. MUSKIE
FOLLOWING PRESIDENT NIXON'S STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE
JANUARY 22, 1970**

It is always reassuring to have a President make a commitment and to give emphasis to environmental quality. Those of us who have fought the battle for many years always appreciate that kind of support from the White House, and the President did have the rhetoric of emphasis with him. The specifics leave me in some doubt as to exactly what he proposes. For example, his proposal of a \$10 billion nation-wide clean waters program leaves some questions unanswered: (1) how much of this would be a Federal commitment, (2) does the \$10 billion represent his estimate of the total cost of the facilities which it is his hope to build, or is the \$10 billion the Federal share only?

We estimate that if we were to catch up on the backlog of untreated municipal wastes alone--this does not cover industrial wastes--we would have to spend \$25 billion in Federal money over a five-year period. If you were to add industrial wastes, I suspect we would have to double that figure.
