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Statement by Senator Edmund S. Muskie
On the President's Message on the Environment
February 10, 1970

As Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Air and Water Pollution, I was pleased to receive the President's Environmental Message to Congress and to note that many of his legislative proposals are similar to those which I made last month. A few of his proposals are new and will require close examination.

I am particularly pleased to have strong Presidential support on this vital issue. I welcome the new proposals which he has made. I hope we can develop a cooperative effort to obtain Congressional approval of a broad, imaginative and effective program to improve the quality of our environment.

After re-examination the President has increased his recommended annual commitment of Federal funds for the construction of municipal waste treatment facilities. The new four-year level appears to be closer to my recommendation of \$2.5 billion per year in direct Federal grants, but I was disappointed that the President did not request full funding of the existing \$1.25 billion authorization for fiscal 1971.

The President's recommendations for river basin plans, regional treatment facilities, effluent standards, court action for the violation of standards, revision of enforcement procedures and extension of standards to navigable waters are also consistent with my proposals two weeks ago and with earlier findings of the Subcommittee. I hope that we will be able to move from this initial agreement to quick legislative action on these points.

On first examination, the objectives of the President's recommendations for the control of air pollution appear to be similar to the objectives of the Air Quality Act of 1967. In legislation which I introduced last session and in new proposals which I announced last month I have offered recommendations to strengthen the control of air pollution from both stationary and moving sources.

Many of the President's recommendations for the control of stationary sources of air pollution--including the extension of Federal enforcement authority, requirements for the installation of the best available technology, designation of regions, and state-wide plans--were included in the proposals which I have offered.

I was pleased to see the announcement of stricter emission standards for automobiles, but I was disappointed that the Message ignored the need to control pollution from trucks, buses, aircraft and other moving sources. We cannot afford to wait for voluntary action, and I will seek early action on the legislation which I have introduced to provide the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare with the necessary enforcement authority.

I was pleased to note the proposed extension of authority to regulate fuel content and fuel additives, but I was disappointed that the President did not announce promulgation of the long-delayed rules regarding the registration of fuel additives which were authorized in the 1967 amendments to the Clean Air Act.

I was pleased to see the proposed re-directing of the activities of the Bureau of Solid Waste, but I was disappointed at the Administration's continued reluctance to seek the necessary funds and legislation to deal with the solid waste crisis.

The Subcommittee on Air and Water Pollution will hold hearings on the President's proposals, my proposals and other pending legislation beginning late this month. Hearings on the Resource Recovery Act will be concluded between February 20 - March 4; hearings are scheduled for the weeks of March 16 and March 23 on air pollution and hearings on water pollution will begin during the last two weeks of April.

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