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## **Press Release - Muskie Calls for 'Welfare Realism'**

Edmund S. Muskie

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# *MUSKIE*

*Maine*

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FOR RELEASE

ON DELIVERY  
AUGUST 27, 1970

## MUSKIE CALLS FOR 'WELFARE REALISM'

In a speech on the Senate floor, Senator Edmund S. Muskie (D-Maine) declared that passage of a welfare reform bill would be "the first major Congressional step toward welfare realism in years."

That is why "I support the Nixon Administration's initiative in offering a major welfare reform proposal, why I hope that the Finance Committee will soon report out a welfare reform bill we can act upon, and why I urge a full and searching debate by the Senate on this issue which has been neglected far too long."

In his prepared remarks, Senator Muskie said, "we must design a welfare system which aspires to two principal objectives -- objectives which the present system does not advance:

"First, providing adequately for those who cannot do more to help themselves;

"And second, providing reasonable incentives to self-reliance for those who can help themselves.

"And we must of course recognize a third and even more significant objective," Mr. Muskie added, "that of eliminating, to the greatest extent possible, the need for any welfare assistance at all."

Senator Muskie said that means a common and unqualified commitment to shape a whole society in this land, which includes every American. It means improving our schools, developing a comprehensive health care system, and sustaining a satisfactory rate of economic growth to keep employment at a maximum, he said.

"These are objectives which belong at the top of the national agenda. And the time to start working on that agenda is now," Mr. Muskie concluded.

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