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## Senator Edmund S. Muskie Interviewed by Yomiuri Shimbun

Edmund S. Muskie

Yomiuri Shimbun

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1) You have charged many times that President Nixon has divided your country very seriously with his Southern Strategy. What is your assessment of the present situation in the United States, and what ideas do you have toward preserving national unity?

Americans have faced many problems in recent years, and we have been divided on the solutions to those problems. It is unfortunate that because of our differences it has sometimes seemed easy to separate us into groups for political advantage. This is the origin of the idea of a "Southern strategy" or an appeal to a "silent majority." I reject that approach to politics. I don't believe that the American people want to be used in that way. I think most Americans are bothered by a politics of name-calling which seeks to exploit fear and division among us instead of serving people's needs. I believe that Americans really want to work together to erase the social and economic and political inequalities among us. These are not just the concerns of small groups of our citizens, they are American concerns. I believe that all Americans are concerned with rebuilding our cities, controlling our pollution problems, reducing our high crime statistics, improving our medical care systems, and above all, with ending the war. I think the first step in solving these problems is the realization that the goals which unite us must overcome the things that divide us. I have called that an American strategy.

2) Relations between the United States and Japan, though basically most friendly, have come to be more deteriorated than ever before, with President Nixon deciding recently to visit Peking and to impose a 10 percent surcharge in imports. What is your opinion of present-day Japan-U.S. relations?

Japan is a very important friend to the United States, and a great power on the edge of the Asian continent. It was unfortunate that the President took the dramatic steps he did in August without prior consultation with our friends around the world. In effect, the United States appeared to abandon its role of leadership in the free world with respect to monetary and trade matters, shifting the burden of our balance of payments deficit to our trading partners. The President is consulting belatedly with several free world leaders. I hope that these conferences will relieve some of the apprehensions created by the way the Nixon Administration handled the announcement of the shift in United States international economic policies.

With regard to his trip to Peking, President Nixon made the announcement without consulting and notifying Japan. I know of nothing in connection with the Peking initiative that could not have been done just as effectively after consultation with Japan. I would hope that this will not cause a deterioration in relations with Japan.

In the future I am sure that Japan will continue to share with the United States the goal of increased economic stability, the expansion of trade agreements, and the peaceful solution of world problems.

3) World politics have entered a new phase in which a triangular game among the United States, the Soviet Union and China is about to unfold with most intricate maneuvering, the objective of which is for each of these countries to step up its influence in this insecure world. What is the American role in this world, in your opinion?

I think there is uneasiness in the world about the Nixon Administration's foreign policy. This can be partially attributed to the lack of a clear leadership role in our foreign relations, and to the fits and starts of President Nixon's actions in foreign affairs. It is difficult for people in other nations to know what America is planning when even Americans are caught off guard by the actions of their government. The Senate of the United States has recently made an effort to review and correct our foreign aid program, and I have urged that we do this. I do not think we should be providing military assistance or arms to dictators or to repressive governments. I have proposed interim foreign assistance to provide security support on a country-by-country basis, and continuing economic assistance in the best of the American humanitarian tradition and as a means of building a stable international order. I believe that the United States must take the lead in an insecure world by pursuing the larger visions that bind nations together. It is essential that we continue to work through multilateral organizations like the United Nations to provide assistance to nations in need. It will become more and more necessary for us to cooperate with the other nations of the world in order to protect the environment of the planet on which we all live. The urgency of environmental problems may make them the most important of all international considerations in the years immediately ahead.

I hope that the United States as an industrial nation could take a leadership role, along with Japan, in working for these solutions on a world basis.

4) Your strenuous efforts toward alleviating air and water pollution have come to be evaluated most highly in Japan which has much to learn from you in this respect. Do you intend to come forth with more comprehensive plans as the next plan in your war against environmental disruption?

In the continuing search for technical and realistic proposals to control pollution of all kinds, it is essential that we proceed carefully and steadily. The Water Pollution Control Bill which has recently passed the United States Senate will soon become law, I hope. It is the result of years of preparation, and will represent an effort to restore and maintain the natural chemical, physical, and biological integrity of America's waters. Previous legislation with the same goal attempted to protect our waters by establishing water quality standards. The new bill authorizes the Environmental Protection Agency to set effluent pollution limits, and provides a much more complex plan for control and funding to assist local and state governments. There is opposition to this bill in its present form, and efforts have been made to weaken it. It will be necessary for this and other pollution problems to be an issue in the coming campaign, I am afraid.

The Clean Air Act of 1970, finally passed on December 22 and signed into law on December 31 of last year, was also opposed, and it took the combined efforts of many concerned Americans to assure its passage. In its final form the bill sets a January 1, 1975, deadline for producing a pollution free automobile, which will help to insure clean and healthy air

for our nation.

We must continue to advocate controls, and to develop the technology to make real environmental control possible, not only for our waterways and oceans and air, but in all aspects of our lives. It is the total environment of man which is in danger, and I will, of course, continue to do everything I can to plan more comprehensive attacks on the dangers we face.

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