

Bates College

SCARAB

Speeches

Edmund S. Muskie Papers

1-19-1964

Statement by Senator Edmund S. Muskie Announcing His Candidacy for Re-Election to the United States Senate

Edmund S. Muskie

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scarab.bates.edu/msp>

Jan. 17, 1964

COPY

My formal announcement as a candidate for re-election to the United States Senate will come as no surprise to many of you. Several weeks ago, in response to a question on a television program, I inadvertently revealed my intention. Nevertheless, I think it is important for me, as a candidate, to speak directly to you. As your Senator, I am accountable to you at all times, and as we enter an election year you have a right to know my plans.

It is now almost ten years since I first announced my candidacy for major public office in the State of Maine. In 1954, I asked for your support as the Democratic candidate for Governor. My campaign in that year was based on a call for two-party government in Maine and a "forward looking program for the betterment of our state." We still need two-party competition, and we need continuing and vigorous attention to the problem of economic growth as the key to progress and increasing opportunity for our people. Today, as then, I believe that the successes of political parties and candidates are not ends in themselves. Political parties and public office are means of service to our state and to our country.

I have found great challenges and satisfaction in serving you as Governor and as United States Senator. I want to continue that service in the Senate, building a better Maine and working for a strong and free America in a peaceful and free world.

During the months ahead you will have an opportunity to evaluate my record. I will discuss it with you fully, taking every opportunity to meet with you individually and in groups for that purpose. It will be our common purpose, I am sure, to plan and work for Maine's future, and the future of our children.

COPY

My aim in this campaign, as in my public office, is to contribute something substantial to the cause of good government, whatever the results of the election.

In the words of one of Maine's great governors, Joshua Chamberlain, "A government has something more to do than to govern, and levy taxes to pay the Governors. It is something more than a police to arrest evil and punish wrong. It must also encourage good, point our improvements, open roads of prosperity and infuse life into all right enterprises. It should combine the insight and foresight of the best minds of the State for all the high ends for which society is established and to which man aspires. That gives us much to do."