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Edmund S. Muskie Papers

6-7-1971

Statement by Senator Edmund S. Muskie on Oil Spill in Portland

Edmund S. Muskie

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6/7/71*

IMMEDIATELY
Monday, June 7, 1971

SENATOR EDWARD S. MUSKIE COMMENTS ON OIL SPILL IN PORTLAND

WASHINGTON -- "The oil spills which took place in Portland Harbor yesterday and this morning are distressing, not only because of the possibility of harm to beaches on Cushing Island and in South Portland, but also because they point out again that neither the technology nor the concern has been developed to prevent such occurrences.

"Federal laws, including last year's amendments to the Water Quality Act, will fix liability and assure payment for the immediate clean-up operations.

"But, clearly, laws alone cannot prevent such incidents from occurring again. Nor can laws correct any permanent damage to marine life and property, or compensate for any loss of the recreational value of area beaches this summer.

"In the final analysis, it is up to the oil transport industry itself to protect the coast of Maine through its own actions.

"Therefore, it is my hope that those responsible for this spill and any future spills will be held fully accountable for the damage done. The people of Maine cannot tolerate negligent conduct which despoils our waters or our coast."
