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## Remarks by Senator Edmund S. Muskie Following Showing of Upward Bound Film, "Space to Grow"

Edmund S. Muskie

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From the Office of  
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For Release on Delivery  
Sen. Muskie--Speech Text #1  
September 6, 1968

REMARKS BY SENATOR EDMUND S. MUSKIE  
FOLLOWING PREVIEW SHOWING OF UPWARD BOUND FILM, "SPACE TO GROW"  
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND TECHNOLOGY  
WASHINGTON, D. C.  
SEPTEMBER 6, 1968

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WHAT MRS. WALKER, MISS MASE, MR. JOHNSON, AND MR. HALL HAVE JUST TOLD US ABOUT "UPWARD BOUND" IS MUCH MORE SIGNIFICANT THAN ANY WORDS I MIGHT ADD.

THEIR TESTIMONY SPEAKS NOT ONLY FOR THEMSELVES, BUT ALSO FOR THE THOUSANDS OF YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN WHO WILL BENEFIT IN THE SAME WAY. AND IT SPEAKS FOR THE MILLIONS OF PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY WHO SEEK, BUT HAVE NOT YET FOUND, THE HOPE FOR FULFILLMENT WHICH IS AMERICA'S PROMISE.

THERE ARE OTHERS WHO HAVE NOT YET GIVEN UP THAT HOPE--THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN UPWARD BOUND, WHO HAVE BUILT IT, AND WHO HAVE SUPPORTED IT. I THINK THAT WHAT THEY REPRESENT WAS EXPRESSED VERY WELL IN THE FILM WHICH YOU HAVE JUST SEEN.

WHAT WAS SPECIAL ABOUT THE UPWARD BOUND TEACHER THE NARRATOR DESCRIBED? IT WAS HIS ATTITUDE. IT WAS THE FACT--

THAT "HE LIKES THE YOUNGSTERS"

THAT "HE REALLY BELIEVES IN THEIR ABILITY AND COMMUNICATES  
THAT BELIEF"

THAT "HE RESPECTS AND VALUES THEM FOR WHAT THEY ARE AND  
CAN BECOME"

AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, THAT HE IS WILLING TO GIVE THEM A  
CHANCE THAT THEY OTHERWISE WOULD NOT HAVE HAD.

IT IS THIS KIND OF CONFIDENCE IN EACH OTHER--THIS KIND OF  
COMMITMENT TO EACH OTHER WHICH WE NEED TODAY.

ANYTHING LESS IS NOT ENOUGH.

THOSE WHO DOUBT THE VALUE OF PROGRAMS SUCH AS UPWARD BOUND  
WILL INEVITABLY ASK TWO QUESTIONS: (1) IS THIS THE RIGHT WAY? AND  
(2) DOES IT WORK?

THE FIRST QUESTION CALLS FOR A JUDGMENT AS TO WHETHER THIS  
PROGRAM AND OTHERS LIKE IT INCORPORATE THE TRADITIONAL AMERICAN VAL-  
UES OF SELF-HELP, OPEN AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY, AND REALISTIC GOALS  
IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR MODERN SOCIETY.

THESE THREE VALUES ARE TIGHTLY INTERWOVEN. THE STATED GOAL OF UPWARD BOUND IS TO CREATE AN EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE WHICH WILL MOTIVATE DISADVANTAGED HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO TRY FOR COLLEGE. IT IS PREDICATED ON THE IDEA THAT PERSONAL EXPERIENCE IS THE BEST MOTIVATOR.

FOR A LONG WHILE WE HAD TOLD THE DISADVANTAGED OF AMERICA: "IF YOU TRY AND YOU ARE ABLE, YOU WILL SUCCEED." YET THERE HAD BEEN TOO LITTLE PROOF AND TOO MUCH CONTRADICTION; TOO LITTLE SHOWING, AND TOO MUCH TELLING.

"UPWARD BOUND" IS A CHALLENGE TO ALL OF US TO CORRECT THIS RECORD:

--A CHALLENGE TO SOCIETY TO CREATE A CLIMATE OF OPPORTUNITY IN WHICH SELF-HELP CAN HAVE A CHANCE.

--A CHALLENGE TO YOUNG PEOPLE TO DO THEIR BEST IN THEIR OWN WAY.

--A CHALLENGE TO HIGHER EDUCATION TO ADJUST ITS CRITERIA SO AS TO BROADEN ITS STANDARDS WITHOUT WEAKENING THEM, AND TO CONFRONT NEW ABILITIES AND NEW BACKGROUNDS WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO SUCCEED.

THERE IS NOTHING REVOLUTIONARY ABOUT THIS PROGRAM UNLESS TRULY EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IS REVOLUTIONARY. UPWARD BOUND MERELY RECOGNIZES THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SELF-HELP TOWARDS A DEAD-END AND SELF-HELP TOWARDS AN ATTAINABLE AND VISIBLE GOAL. AND THIS IS, IN FACT, ITS PRAGMATIC GOAL.

AND SO, IT IS WORTH TRYING.

DOES IT WORK?

THESE FOUR YOUNG GRADUATES WILL ATTEST TO THAT. THE FOUR-FIFTHS OF THE 7,500 WHO HAVE FINISHED UPWARD BOUND TRAINING AND HAVE GONE ON TO COLLEGE DEMONSTRATE ITS WORTH. THESE STUDENTS HAVE ENTERED COLLEGE AT A HIGHER RATE THAN THE GENERAL POPULATION. THEIR COLLEGE RECORDS TELL US THAT THE PROGRAM WORKS.

AND THE CHILDREN WHO ARE TAUGHT IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS BY MR. HALL AND MR. JOHNSON WILL LATER TELL US THAT IT WORKS FOR THEM.

MOST IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, THE BOY WHO WROTE THIS PASSAGE TELLS US THAT UPWARD BOUND WORKS:

"BEFORE THIS PROGRAM I HAD NEVER SEEN A BASEBALL GAME. I'D NEVER SEEN A GOOD MOVIE LIKE THAT OF "MY FAIR LADY." I'D NEVER BEFORE SEEN OR ATTENDED AN OUTDOOR CONCERT, WHICH I TRULY ENJOYED. ALL THIS REALLY AMAZES ME BECAUSE I THOUGHT I WAS ONE WHO GOT AROUND. AND I CAN THINK OF OTHER KIDS LIKE MYSELF, OR EVEN WORSE, WHO HAVEN'T SEEN OR BEEN EXPOSED TO ANYTHING."

OR THE GIRL WHO WROTE:

"I WAS ONCE NAIVE AND SHELTERED, BUT NOW THE EXPOSURE TO COLLEGE LIFE HAS SHATTERED THE HARD SHELL WHICH PREVENTED ME FROM LOOKING AROUND AND NOTICING HOW MY LIFE WAS CHANGING FROM DAY TO DAY. . . .AS A NEGRO, EDUCATION IS THE ONLY WAY THAT I CAN OBTAIN AND USE MY RIGHTS AS AN AMERICAN CITIZEN."

BEYOND THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THIS PROGRAM AND OTHERS LIKE IT WORK AT ALL IS THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THEY WORK AS WELL AS THEY

MUST. UPWARD BOUND IS ONE OF THE BEST EXAMPLES OF OUR COMMITMENT TO BROADER EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL AMERICANS, WHATEVER THEIR SOCIAL OR ECONOMIC BACKGROUND. YET WE MUST PROUD OURSELVES AS THESE YOUNG GRADUATES HAVE PRODDED THEMSELVES--TO GO FARTHER THAN WE HAD CONSIDERED GOING BEFORE TOWARDS ACHIEVING A QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL.

COMMITMENTS LIKE THIS ARE ESSENTIAL TO THE WELL-BEING OF ALL OF US--THE PRIVILEGED AND THE DISADVANTAGED ALIKE.

WE MAKE THESE COMMITMENTS THROUGH UPWARD BOUND BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT A FREE SOCIETY ASPIRING TO THE GREATNESS WHICH ONLY THE FULFILLMENT OF ITS CITIZENS MAKES POSSIBLE, CAN ENHANCE ITS WISDOM, CAN MINIMIZE ITS MISTAKES, CAN DEVELOP ENLIGHTENED LEADERSHIP, AND CAN PRODUCE A LIFE TOGETHER WHICH IS WORTH LIVING FOR ALL OF US.

THE EVIDENCE OF OUR TIMES IS THAT ANYTHING LESS CAN PRODUCE A LIFE TOGETHER WHICH IS <sup>ONE</sup> NONE OF US CAN TRULY ENJOY.

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