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Speeches

Edmund S. Muskie Papers

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Speech Notes - Ideas and Facts - Manchester, New Hampshire

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IDEAS AND FACTS
MANCHESTER, N.H.

Some of my concerns for the country:

I. The Economy

Employment:

1. Nixon promised, in 1968 campaign, to create 15 Million jobs in 4 years. He still has 12 Million to go.
2. The repeal of the automobile excise tax was supposed to create 25,000 jobs for every 300,000 new autos sold. Detroit reports that new car sales are up at a rate of 1 Million over last year -- but no new jobs have yet been created in the industry.

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3. In some inner-city areas, the unemployment rate for workers 18-21 is as high as 40%.
4. The unemployment rate for Vietnam veterans is 10%. When a young man goes out there and risks his life for his country, the least he can expect is to have work when he comes home.

II. Monetary Affairs

1. We are projecting a balance of payments deficit of 31 Billion dollars for 1971.
2. This week, we had to abandon a pledge of 25 years standing, a pledge we made to the world here in New Hampshire, at Bretton

Woods, to redeem the dollar for gold at \$35 an ounce.

III. Welfare

1. Three million people have been added to the rolls since 1968.
2. The Administration has abandoned its program for welfare reform.
3. Need for federal assumption of welfare costs.

IV. Property Taxes

Rose 13% in New Hampshire between 1970 and 1971.

V. Pollution

1. For how many years have we been trying to clean up the Merrimack River?
2. We need to cleanse the pollution, crime and drugs from our communities so we can be at peace with our surroundings once again.

VI. Military

1. We should be deeply concerned with what the editor of Army magazine has called "the agony of the military" -- the drugs and racial strife, the poor housing, the breakdown in morale and the disrespect toward the armed forces of our country.

It is not the soldiers' fault. It is our fault.

2. We must restore the dignity, morale and purpose of the military. We must make sure our armed forces have a mission in keeping with its honor and its tradition.

VII. Credibility of the Presidency

1. Since 1970, the Senate has had to vote on 9 separate occasions on resolutions to require withdrawal from Southeast Asia (Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia). We have had to do this because we no longer believed the President would do so on his own initiative. And we are now considering requiring that no

American forces can be committed to war for more than 30 days without a declaration by the Congress.

VIII. Patriotism of Americans

1. There is a great deal of patriotism in America. Public support of the freeze == willingness to sacrifice wage increases == is an example.

2. There is still great faith in the democratic process. The reform of the Democratic Party procedures is an example.

IX. Ending

So let us restore