

Bates College

SCARAB

Speeches

Edmund S. Muskie Papers

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Speech Notes - Outline of Speech at the Legislators and Mayors Reception

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OUTLINE
LEGISLATORS AND MAYORS RECEPTION
BOSTON - DECEMBER 16, 1971

1. I KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR PROBLEMS.

I RAN FOR MAYOR, UNSUCCESSFULLY.

I WAS A MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATURE.

I WAS ALSO A GOVERNOR AND WORKED WITH OUT LEGISLATURE.

THEY SAY THAT WHEN THINGS GO WELL, THE GOVERNOR GETS THE
CREDIT, AND WHEN THINGS GO WRONG THE LEGISLATURE TAKES
THE BLAME.

2. IN THIS SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE, MASSACHUSETTS WAS:

FIRST STATE TO DEAL IN A PROGRESSIVE WAY WITH THE PROBLEMS
OF ALCOHOLISM;

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FIRST STATE TO MODERNIZE ITS LEGISLATION ON DRUGS;
MASSACHUSETTS HAS SO OFTEN BEEN A LEADER IN RECOGNIZING
NEW PROBLEMS AT THE STATE LEVEL.

3. ~~NATIONAL~~ ^{NATIONAL} LEADERS RESPECT YOU FOR THIS. WE WANT TO SEE IT
CONTINUE. WE WANT TO DO WHAT WE CAN TO HELP.

4. TO BRING DOWN THE PROPERTY TAX,

IT PAYS FOR FIFTY-FIVE PERCENT OF THE SERVICES OF STATE
AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN MASSACHUSETTS.
PROPERTY TAXES HAVE DOUBLED IN THE PAST TEN YEARS.
NO OTHER MAJOR TAX -- FEDERAL, STATE OR LOCAL -- HAS
CLIMBED SO FAST.

IT IS REGRESSIVE AND RUINOUS FOR MANY COMMUNITIES.

5. WE ARE TRYING TO ACHIEVE A REVENUE-SHARING PROGRAM THAT WILL CHANGE THIS AROUND.

PRESIDENT TALKS ABOUT IT -- BUT DOES NOT GIVE LEADERSHIP.

ONE OF THE MANY REASONS WHY WE NEED DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENT.

6. YOU ARE GOING TO HAVE A PRIMARY HERE.

I WILL BE INVOLVED, OTHERS WILL BE INVOLVED, AND THE
VOTERS WILL MAKE THEIR CHOICE.

IN THE NEXT FOUR MONTHS, I WILL BE SEEING YOU AGAIN.

7. OUT OF CAMPAIGN AND CONVENTION WILL COME A DEMOCRATIC VICTORY ...

THAT WILL MEAN ACTION ON REVENUE SHARING.

THAT WILL MEAN END THE WAR IN VIETNAM, SO THERE WILL BE
REVENUE TO SHARE.

THAT WILL STRAIGHTEN OUT THE ECONOMY, END THE PROLONGED
RECESSION THAT HAS AFFECTED MASSACHUSETTS AND ALL OF
NEW ENGLAND.

8. I AM INTERESTED IN THIS:

YOU ARE WORKING FOR IT, IN THE STATE HOUSE AND IN CITY HALL.
WE HAVE MUCH WE CAN DO TOGETHER.