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## **Statement by Senator Edmund S. Muskie on the Administration's Oil Import Announcement**

Edmund S. Muskie

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STATEMENT BY SENATOR EDMUND S. MUSKIE REGARDING  
THE ADMINISTRATION'S OIL IMPORT ANNOUNCEMENT

The White House announcement concerning increased oil imports has been characterized as a special accommodation to New England consumers. But this is not true.

In fact, the announcement does nothing more for New England than to restate a decision announced on November 5 granting a totally inadequate increase of only 5,000 more barrels per day over last year's quotas on No. 2 home heating oil. The only new elements in the announcement involve an increase of 95,000 barrels a day in the permissible level of crude oil imports, most of which will go to the Midwest. These increases will have no appreciable affect on the availability or cost of home heating oil in New England.

The White House announcement appears to be another effort to mask the inequities of the oil import system with illusory promises of relief. The heavy burden of excessive home heating oil costs in New England will only be eased when the entire oil import quota system for the region has been abolished. The Administration has consistently rejected this course, despite growing evidence that the oil import system serves only to artificially and unjustifiably raise the price of oil and impose the threat of supply shortages.

Until the Administration acknowledges this basic fact and commits itself to major reforms in the oil import quota system, the citizens of New England will continue to pay excessive prices for heating their homes.