

Bates College

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Speeches

Edmund S. Muskie Papers

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Speech Notes - Jokes for Fundraiser, Regency Hotel, New York

Edmund S. Muskie

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JOKES FOR FUNDRAISER

REGENCY HOTEL, NEW YORK

JANUARY 5, 1972

I AM DELIGHTED TO BE HERE AND TO HAVE A CHANCE TO HAVE A DISCUSSION WITH YOU ON THE ISSUES OF THIS CAMPAIGN.

I AM MOST APPRECIATIVE TO ALL OF YOU WHO HAVE DECIDED TO SUPPORT MY EFFORT THIS YEAR. FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE NOT SO DECIDED, I WANT TO SAY YOU HAVE A FREE CHOICE: YOU CAN LEAVE YOUR MONEY WITH ME, OR YOU CAN LEAVE IT AT THE HOTEL PIERRE.

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I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT SENATOR KENNEDY WOULD HAVE BEEN HERE TONIGHT -- HE IS NOT COMMITTED TO MY CANDIDACY, BUT HE IS INTERESTED IN THE SUCCESS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY -- BUT HE IS IN ARIZONA HOLDING HEARINGS ON INDIAN PROBLEMS. NO MATTER WHERE HE GOES HE CAN'T SEEM TO GET HIS MIND OFF THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN. I SAW HIM TONIGHT ON TELEVISION. IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL SETTING: THE MEETING OF THE HIGH TRIBAL COUNCIL OF THE NAVAHOES. THE INDIAN CHIEF CAME UP TO HIM, PUT A HEADDRESS ON SENATOR KENNEDY'S HEAD, AND SAID: "HOW."

AND TEDDY SAID: "ONLY IF THERE IS A DEADLOCK AT THE CONVENTION."

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SENATOR HUMPHREY WOULD HAVE BEEN HERE ALSO, BUT HE IS IN CALIFORNIA. HE WAS QUOTED IN THE PRESS AS SAYING THAT IF HE RAN IN THE CALIFORNIA PRIMARY "YOU WILL SEE THE REINCARNATION OF ESTES KEFAUVER." I

#2 is not in file
I know what he means; he will hold an investigation into what we lost in 1968.

OCCASIONALLY, HOWEVER, WE HAVE TO GET OUR MINDS OFF POLITICS, EVEN IF WE ARE CANDIDATES. MY WIFE TOLD ME THAT IN AN EFFORT TO DO THIS, SHE WAS TAKING UP YOGA. YOU KNOW WHAT THAT IS: WHEN A PERSON SITS IN ONE PLACE AND MEDITATES FOR A LONG, LONG TIME. I'VE BEEN ACCUSED OF THAT, TOO.

I WAS INTRIGUED BY PRESIDENT NIXON'S INTERVIEW WITH DAN RATHER ON TELEVISION LAST SUNDAY, AND ESPECIALLY BY HIS STRONG ENDORSEMENT OF VICE PRESIDENT AGNEW AS HIS RUNNING MATE THIS YEAR. A NUMBER OF PEOPLE HAVE SAID THE VICE PRESIDENT IS HIS OWN WORSE ENEMY. NOT WHILE I AM ALIVE HE ISN'T.

SECRETARY CONNALLY TOOK THIS PRONOUNCEMENT OF THE PRESIDENT'S ABOUT MR. AGNEW WITH GOOD GRACE. HE WAS NOT UPSET OVER THAT. HE WAS UPSET BY THE FACT THAT THE PRESIDENT IS SUGGESTING PLAYS TO THE COACH OF THE DOLPHINS TO BEAT THE DALLAS COWBOYS IN THE SUPER BOWL.

THE PLAY HE SUGGESTED, ACCORDING TO THE DIAGRAMS IN THE PAPERS, IS CALLED A "DOWN AND IN". MR. NIXON MAY CARE A GREAT DEAL ABOUT THE DOWN AND IN. BUT ASK FIVE MILLION UNEMPLOYED IN THIS COUNTRY, AND THEY WILL TELL YOU HE DOESN'T CARE MUCH ABOUT THE DOWN AND OUTS.

I APPRECIATE YOUR COMING THIS EVENING. WHEN I ANTICIPATE THE FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF THIS CAMPAIGN, RUNNING AGAINST THE REPUBLICAN PARTY. I FEEL LIKE DAVID AGAINST GOLIATH.

EXCEPT IN THIS SITUATION, GOLIATH HAS ALL THE STONES.

ESPECIALLY WHEN IT COMES TO TELEVISION EXPENDITURES. AT THE PRESENT TIME, THEY CAN AFFORD TO BUY HOURS AND HOURS OF TIME - AND WE'RE LUCKY TO BE ABLE TO AFFORD A STATION BREAK.

BUT WE HAVE ONE ADVANTAGE:
THEIR RECORD.

AFTER THREE YEARS OF INFLATED PREDICTIONS AND DISMAL PERFORMANCE ~~ON THE~~ ~~THE~~ ~~THE~~ THE ADMINISTRATION IS ONCE AGAIN PREDICTING A GOOD ~~YEAR~~ YEAR ECONOMICALLY. IN MY JUDGMENT, THE MAN WHO HAS BEEN DOING THE ECONOMIC FORECASTING. SHOULD GET THE NOBEL PRIZE FOR FICTION.

OF COURSE, THE PRESIDENT HAS SOME CAMPAIGN PLANS OF HIS OWN.

~~HE IS~~
HE IS GOING TO MAKE A MAJOR EFFORT TO WIN THE 18-YEAR OLD VOTE. HE'S HAVING HENRY KISSENER DATE THEM ALL.

AND THEN THERE'S ATTORNEY-GENERAL MITCHELL. IN THE FIELD OF CIVIL LIBERTIES,

ACTUALLY, HE IS AHEAD OF HIS TIME. SOME OF HIS PROPOSALS WERE NOT DUE UNTIL 1984.

AND THEN THERE'S MARTHA MITCHELL. IN WASHINGTON, THEY ARE OPENING UP A CHAIN OF DRIVE-IN RESTAURANTS NAMED ~~MARTHA MITCHELL~~ MARTHA MITCHELL RESTAURANTS. THEY ARE NAMED NOT AFTER HER, BUT AFTER HER MOUTH: OPEN 24 HOURS A DAY.

OF COURSE, WE HAVE SOME PROBLEMS IN OUR OWN PARTY.

~~WE~~ SOME OF OUR CANDIDATES HAVE DROPPED OUT. SENATOR HUGHES OF IOWA, FOR EXAMPLE. I RESPECT HIM. WHAT OUR PARTY NEEDS IS MORE DEMOCRATS LIKE HAROLD HUGHES -- WITH A BANKROLL LIKE HOWARD HUGHES.