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## Remarks of Senator Edmund S. Muskie on His Hopes for the Future at Rosy O'Grady Warehouse, Pensacola, Florida

Edmund S. Muskie

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REMARKS BY SENATOR EDMUND S. MUSKIE

PENSACOLA BOX LUNCH -- ROSY O'GRADY'S WAREHOUSE

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 1972, 12:30 P.M.

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I AM DELIGHTED TO BE HERE, IN THIS BEAUTIFUL PART OF FLORIDA, WHICH IS SO RICH IN HISTORY AND SCENERY AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR GOOD LIVING.

AND HOW WARMED I HAVE BEEN TODAY. I HAVE BEEN WARMED BY YOUR SUNSHINE, WHICH IS SO WELCOME TO A MAN FROM MAINE AT THIS TIME OF YEAR. MARK TWAIN ONCE SAID THAT GOD MAKES EVERYTHING IN NEW ENGLAND. . . EXCEPT THE WEATHER. SOMETIMES IT GETS SO COLD IN MAINE THAT WORDS FREEZE AS SOON AS THEY LEAVE YOUR MOUTH. . . AND WE HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL SPRING TO FIND OUT WHAT PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT. IT IS THE SAME THING THAT OFTEN HAPPENS IN A POLITICAL CAMPAIGN. BUT AFTER VISITING WITH YOU IN THIS BEAUTIFUL CITY, I CAN SAY THAT GOD MAKES EVERYTHING IN PENSACOLA. . . INCLUDING THE WEATHER. - *except the political*

*speeches -*

AND I HAVE BEEN WARMED NOT ONLY BY YOUR CLIMATE, BUT BY YOUR HOSPITALITY AND YOUR WELCOME AND THE KINDNESS THAT ALL OF YOU HAVE SHOWN ME.

I FEEL COMFORTABLE HERE. THE PEOPLE OF WESTERN FLORIDA ARE VERY MUCH LIKE THE PEOPLE OF MY NATIVE MAINE. YOU ARE PART OF THE LAND. YOU HAVE A SENSE OF WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN AND A SENSE OF WHAT YOU WANT TO BE. PENSACOLA HAS LIVED UNDER FIVE FLAGS IN ITS HISTORY. THIS CITY HAS PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR NAVY, AND IT STILL DOES. YOU HAVE A LONG AND CHERISHED HERITAGE, AND YOU SHOULD BE PROUD OF IT.

I AM HERE TODAY AS A CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

I AM HERE BECAUSE FLORIDA HAS A SPECIAL IMPORTANCE IN THE POLITICS OF 1972. IN RECENT TIMES, YOUR STATE STOOD ON THE SIDELINES WHILE OTHER STATES TESTED THE CANDIDATES AND THE ISSUES. NOW YOU ARE NO LONGER BYSTANDERS. YOU ARE NO LONGER SPECTATORS. YOU ARE IN THE CENTER OF THE ACTION, AND THAT IS WHERE YOU SHOULD BE.

THE DAY HAS PASSED WHEN NATIONAL CANDIDATES COULD "WRITE-OFF" WHOLE SECTIONS OF THE COUNTRY. YET SOME CANDIDATES IN THE FLORIDA PRIMARY ARE ALREADY "WRITING-OFF" WHOLE SECTIONS OF THIS STATE.

FOR MY PART, I INTEND TO WAGE A NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR THE NOMINATION -- ENTERING PRIMARIES IN EVERY REGION RATHER THAN SELECTING JUST A FEW. AND I INTEND TO WAGE A STATEWIDE CAMPAIGN IN FLORIDA -- FROM THE PANHANDLE TO THE KEYS.

THE ONE THING I DON'T INTEND TO DO IS FLOOD YOU WITH ENDLESS T.V. COMMERCIALS. IN 1970, THE VOTERS OF FLORIDA PROVED THAT THEY PREFER THE RIGHT PERSON TO A SATURATION MEDIA CAMPAIGN. I SHARE YOUR FEELING, AND SO DOES THE REST OF THE COUNTRY. AND LAST MONTH, I JOINED MOST OF THE DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES IN AN AGREEMENT TO LIMIT SPENDING ON RADIO AND TELEVISION ADVERTISING.

I BELIEVE THIS ELECTION IS MORE THAN AN OPPORTUNITY TO PUT A FACE ON TELEVISION OR A VOICE ON THE RADIO. IT'S AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET THE PEOPLE. . . TO TALK WITH THEM FACE TO FACE, AND ONE TO ONE. . . TO LEARN WHAT YOUR NEEDS ARE, WHAT YOUR HOPES ARE, AND WHAT YOU EXPECT A PRESIDENT TO DO.

THIS WILL NOT BE AN EASY YEAR, AND THAT IS BECAUSE THE PROBLEMS WE FACE ARE NOT EASY PROBLEMS. THEY WILL TEST OUR STRENGTH, OUR WISDOM, AND OUR COMPASSION. I BELIEVE WE CAN MEET THAT TEST, AND THAT IS WHY I AM RUNNING FOR PRESIDENT.

I AM RUNNING BECAUSE I BELIEVE WE CAN RESTORE THE HEALTH OF OUR ECONOMY, AND ESPECIALLY THE HOUSING INDUSTRY, WHICH IS SO IMPORTANT IN THIS AREA.

I AM RUNNING BECAUSE I BELIEVE WE CAN ASSIST OLDER AMERICANS, BY INSURING COST-FREE MEDICAL CARE AND INFLATION-FREE SOCIAL SECURITY.

I AM RUNNING BECAUSE I BELIEVE WE CAN DEFEAT CRIME AND DRUG ABUSE, SO THAT ALL OF US CAN LIVE IN PEACE WITH OUR SOCIETY AND WITH EACH OTHER.

I AM RUNNING BECAUSE I BELIEVE WE CAN RESTORE THE MORALE AND THE HIGH PURPOSE OF OUR MILITARY SERVICES, BY GIVING OUR ARMED FORCES A MISSION IN KEEPING WITH THE HONOR AND PRESTIGE OF THEIR GREAT TRADITION.

AND I AM RUNNING BECAUSE I BELIEVE WE CAN RETURN TRUTH AND TRUST TO OUR NATIONAL LEADERSHIP, AND DO FOR THE COUNTRY WHAT YOUR SUNSHINE LAW HAS DONE FOR FLORIDA.

FINALLY -- AND THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT -- TO YOU HERE IN PENSACOLA -- AND TO ME FOR TWENTY-FIVE YEARS IN PUBLIC LIFE -- I AM RUNNING BECAUSE I BELIEVE WE MUST PRESERVE AND PROTECT OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT.

I HAVE BEEN CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON AIR AND WATER POLLUTION SINCE 1962. AND I KNOW THIS COMMUNITY'S SPECIAL FEELING FOR ESCAMBIA BAY. OF ALL THE THINGS GOD MADE IN PENSACOLA, THIS BAY WAS HIS FINEST WORK. . . A BREATHTAKING EXPANSE OF WATER WHERE SEAFOOD THRIVED AND TOURISTS VISITED AND CHILDREN SWAM.

NOW THE BAY IS POISONED. . . AND MILLIONS OF FISH HAVE DIED. CHEMICALS LIKE NITROGEN AND PHOSPHORUS ARE STRANGLING SOME OF YOUR MOST VITAL INDUSTRIES. MEN DID THIS TO ESCAMBIA BAY -- AND MEN HAVE A MORAL OBLIGATION TO TRY TO UNDO THE DAMAGE, NO MATTER HOW LONG THE EFFORT TAKES.

TWO MONTHS AGO, THE SENATE, BY A VOTE OF 86 TO NOTHING, APPROVED THE WATER QUALITY ACT OF 1971. <sup>IT IS A TOUGH</sup> IT IS THE TOUGHEST AND [MOST] FAR REACHING PIECE OF ANTI-POLLUTION LEGISLATION, EVER PASSED BY ANY LEGISLATIVE BODY IN HUMAN HISTORY. ] AND THAT LEGISLATION CAN HELP YOU. IT WAS WRITTEN TO HELP YOU. . . NOT JUST TO PLACE BLAME AND PROSECUTE VIOLATORS. . . BUT TO CLEAN UP ESCAMBIA BAY AND MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO HAVE PROSPERITY WITHOUT POLLUTION.

WE HAVE THE TOOLS TO SAVE OUR ENVIRONMENT. WE HAD THEM WHEN THE ESCAMBIA RIVER STILL CARRIED CLEAN WATER TO THE BAY. WE HAVE THEM NOW, WHILE THE ADMINISTRATION WORKS OVERTIME TO WEAKEN THE PROVISIONS OF THE WATER QUALITY ACT. WHAT WE NEED IS NATIONAL LEADERSHIP STRONG ENOUGH TO MAKE THOSE TOOLS WORK.

AND THAT IS WHY I AM RUNNING FOR PRESIDENT.

I BELIEVE WE CAN SOLVE THE PROBLEMS THAT FACE THIS NATION. I CANNOT PROMISE YOU OVERNIGHT ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS THAT ARE DECADES OLD. I CANNOT PROMISE YOU EASY SOLUTIONS OR INSTANT SUCCESS.

*Wallace* →

I CAN PROMISE TO TRY. AND IF YOU ARE WILLING TO MAKE THE SAME PROMISE, I KNOW WE WILL SUCCEED. BUT WE HAVE TO WORK TOGETHER. WE HAVE TO REJECT THE POLITICS OF ANGER AND DIVISION, AND SEEK INSTEAD THE COMMON BONDS THAT MAKE US ALL AMERICANS. THAT'S WHAT GOVERNOR ASKEW HAS BEEN DOING IN FLORIDA. THAT'S WHY HE FOUGHT FOR TAX REFORM TO BENEFIT ALL THE CITIZENS OF THIS STATE. . . NOT JUST THE FEW WHO ARE WEALTHY AND INFLUENTIAL. AND THAT'S WHY REUBIN ASKEW'S LEADERSHIP HAS SET A HIGH STANDARD IN AMERICAN POLITICS.

I BELIEVE THE RIGHT LEADERSHIP CAN MOVE THIS COUNTRY FORWARD, JUST AS REUBIN ASKEW HAS MOVED FLORIDA FORWARD. THAT IS WHAT I CAME HERE TO SAY, AND I WON'T TAKE ANY MORE OF YOUR TIME. IN 1972, POLITICIANS ALREADY MAKE TOO MANY SPEECHES AND TOO LITTLE SENSE. I REMEMBER THE MOST EFFECTIVE WILL IN THE HISTORY OF MAINE. IT WAS ALSO THE SHORTEST. IT WAS JUST TEN WORDS LONG: "BEING OF SOUND MIND AND BODY, I SPENT IT ALL". . . . SOUNDS LIKE THE FEDERAL BUDGET.

SO I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR LISTENING. IT WAS A PLEASURE TO COME TO YOUR BEAUTIFUL CITY. EVENTS LIKE THIS ONE ARE WHAT MAKE A CAMPAIGN FUN. AND PEOPLE LIKE YOU MAKE THE EFFORT WORTHWHILE.

TOGETHER, IN 1972, WE CAN MAKE A NEW BEGINNING.

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