

Bob Dole



NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

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Contact: Clarkson Hine
(202) 224-5358

EDMUND MUSKIE

STATEMENT OF SENATE MAJORITY LEADER BOB DOLE

During a speech in the 1968 presidential campaign, Senator Edmund Muskie, who was the Democrat nominee for vice-president, told his audience, "You have the God-given right to kick the government around--don't hesitate to do so."

That remark was pure Ed Muskie. Blunt. To the point. And leaving no doubt that Americans should expect the best of their public officials.

And the best is just what the people of Maine and America received from Ed Muskie during a public service career that spanned five decades.

Along with all Senators, I join today in mourning the death of Ed Muskie, who passed away here in Washington early this morning.

The son of a Polish immigrant, Ed Muskie grew up knowing about the blessings of freedom and democracy, and he spent a lifetime standing up for those blessings, beginning with serving for three years in the Atlantic and Asiatic-Pacific theaters in World War II.

After the war, he returned to his beloved Maine, and soon began his political career as a Democrat in a state that for over a century had rarely elected anybody but Republicans.

Ed Muskie changed all that. During his six years in the State House of Representatives, his four years as Governor, and his twenty-one years in the United States Senate, Ed Muskie's intelligence and integrity changed the voting habits of Maine--many of whom called themselves "Muskie Republicans."

Ed's years in the Senate were highlighted by his service as the first Chairman of the Senate Budget Committee. In that role, Ed took some criticism from those of his party who believed he was too tough in his opposition to increased spending.

He handled this criticism by saying that America wouldn't get it's fiscal house in order if we continued to have public servants who--and I quote--"talked like Scrooge on the campaign trail, and voted like Santa Claus in the Senate."

Ed Muskie was a patriot who always answered the call of his nation. He resigned from the Senate when President Carter asked him to serve as Secretary of State. And when Ronald Reagan--the man who defeated President Carter--asked him to serve on the Tower Commission, Ed was there, as well.

The State of Maine and America are better because of Ed Muskie's life and career.

I know all Senators join with me in extending our condolences to his family and friends.