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7-30-1971

## **Press Release - Muskie Comments on Shipyard Decision**

Edmund S. Muskie

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# MUSKIE

Maine

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FOR RELEASE

IMMEDIATELY  
Friday, July 30, 1971

## MUSKIE COMMENTS ON SHIPYARD DECISION

Senator Edmund S. Muskie (D-Maine) today stated that he was "highly critical" of a decision by the Navy to close the foundry at the Kittery-Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and that he "could not see how the decision could be justified on the basis of information provided me to date."

In response to inquiries made on behalf of workers at the yard, the Navy told Muskie that a decision had been made to close foundries in east coast shipyards and that all foundry work was to be consolidated in Philadelphia. Planning for the phase-out of foundry work would commence in September. "The decision, if carried out, will affect not only the foundry workers, but dozens of other employees in related areas of the Yard."

"Elimination of the foundry could affect not only the quality of such work, but also the speed of delivery which is essential to the efficient functioning of the Shipyard. Transportation costs from Philadelphia could also outweigh any savings anticipated from the consolidation."

"I am not at all satisfied with the information provided me by the Navy concerning the basis for this decision. Until I receive adequate justification for the move I will continue to oppose this decision."

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