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Press Release - Senator Edmund S. Muskie Disputes a Story of Deadlock on Drug Abuse Legislation

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1 sheet

From the SUBCOMMITTEES ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL
RELATIONS and EXECUTIVE REORGANIZATION
AND GOVERNMENT RESEARCH

Committee on Government Operations
Old Senate Office Building
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The following statement was issued by Senators Javits, Percy, Gurney, Ribicoff, Hughes and Muskie regarding a New York Times news report of today which asserted that a deadlock existed between the Congress and the White House over pending drug abuse control legislation.

(Senators Muskie, Hughes and Ribicoff are Chairmen of the Senate Subcommittees considering legislation which was introduced June 17 by Senator Percy, acting ranking member of the Government Operations Committee, on behalf of the Administration, and bills introduced by Senators Hughes, Javits and Muskie. Senators Javits and Gurney are the ranking members of two of the Subcommittees considering the legislation.)

This morning's story is inaccurate, and we are pleased that Dr. Jaffe, the Director of the President's Special Action Office for Drug Abuse Prevention, has set the record straight from the White House. Not only does no deadlock exist regarding this drug abuse control legislation, but, in fact, we are in the final stages of negotiations on a proposal which in the opinion of both Senate Committees involved encompasses the best aspects of the several bills we are considering. We are also pleased to note that from the beginning the effort to achieve legislation has been held above partisanship both by the Administration and the Congress.

"Hearings on the legislation were completed within six weeks after the Administration's legislation was submitted. The staff work by the Congressional Committees and the Administration necessary to reach agreement on the bill has been nearly completed in the 10 weeks since Congress reconvened after the August recess.

"We are confident that because of these prompt hearings and effective effort within the Congressional Committees, with the cooperation of the Administration, an effective drug abuse control bill will be enacted in this session of the Congress."