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Press Release - Muskie Hails Maine's Immigrant Heritage

Edmund S. Muskie

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MUSKIE

Maine

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FOR RELEASE

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MUSKIE HAILS MAINE'S IMMIGRANT HERITAGE

Speaking at the Androscoggin County Sesquicentennial celebration and Franco-American commemoration in Lewiston, Maine, Senator Edmund S. Muskie (D-Maine) stated that "immigrants of many origins... have adopted Maine as their own, and they have given to Maine what has been the best of their past."

"As we celebrate 150 years of Statehood," Muskie declared, "we remember not only the shared visions of independence and freedom and the opportunity to build a better life, but also the great variety of cultures and languages and skills which were joined together in a common cause -- to carve a New World from the Maine wilderness."

"French-Americans have played a special part in the building of this State from the beginning," Senator Muskie added. "They have farmed the soil, helped build the textile mills, worked on the railroads, and contributed greatly in every profession."

"But perhaps most important of all is the fact that they never forgot or ignored or denied their own special heritage... Franco-Americans have found strength and dignity and pride in their determination to preserve their past as well as to shape their future with their own hands and their own minds."

"So it has been and so it must be for every group of Americans, no matter where they have come from," the Senator concluded.

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