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## MUSKIE OPPOSED TO KLEINDIENST

Asks Nixon to Withdraw His  
Attorney General Choice

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PHILADELPHIA, April 20—

Senator Edmund S. Muskie, in a stinging attack on special privilege for big business, called on President Nixon today to withdraw the nomination of Richard G. Kleindienst for Attorney General.

The Maine Senator told a luncheon meeting of the Jaycees here that he would vote against confirmation of the President's nominee because of questionable ethics displayed in handling the recent antitrust case against the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation.

The speech continued a Muskie shift this week, in the final days of the Pennsylvania Presidential primary campaign, to hard-hitting speeches in contrast to qualified and blurred positions of the past.

On the war issue, Mr. Muskie said in a speech Tuesday night that the bombing of Hanoi and Haiphong was "an outrage." He said that if he were elected he would withdraw all United States forces from Indochina within weeks and cut off military aid to Saigon unless South Vietnam was making substantial progress toward peace.

### I.T.T. 'Scandal' Alleged

Senator Muskie's statement on what he called the I.T.T. "scandal" went beyond the stand of his principal rival in next Tuesday's primary, Senator Hubert H. Humphrey.

Mr. Humphrey has expressed doubts that he would support Mr. Nixon on the Kleindienst nomination. Senator George McGovern, who is concentrating on the Massachusetts primary the same day, said unequivocally last month that he would oppose Mr. Kleindienst.

In the past, Senator Muskie has rejected several staff-written drafts of speeches on the subject. Today he said that "poor and middle Americans" were right in believing that big business could "buy influence over public officials" in the Nixon Administration.

"Anyone who has watched this Administration in action may ask whether Richard Nixon has forgotten that he is the President of a country, not the President of a corporation," Senator Muskie said to scattered applause from about 200 persons in the elegant white and gold ballroom of the Barclay Hotel.

"In recent weeks," he said, "this truth has been brought home to us again by Senate hearings on the I.T.T. antitrust scandal."

He noted that Peter M. Flanagan, one of the President's senior advisers in the White House, finally testified today after the Administration had first refused to let him and, Mr. Muskie said, had issued "a demand to close down the hearings and close off the truth."

Saying that Mr. Flanagan's role in the Administration was to "find legal loopholes for big business," Senator Muskie pledged, to applause, that he would "not have a Mr. Fixit in my Administration."

### Finds 'Influence Peddling'

The Senator said the Nixon Administration and Mr. Kleindienst "appear to have served the interests of I.T.T., not the interests of the American people" by accepting an antitrust settlement previously condemned by the Justice Department while accepting a pledge of financial contributions to the Republican National Convention "from the corporation they were supposed to prosecute."

He denounced "influence peddling" as a basis for governing.

"I will ask the Congress to outlaw any private meeting about public business between a regulatory official and those who are subject to regulation," he said.

He said that Mr. Kleindienst was the man who said he "forgot" his private meetings with I.T.T. representatives when the company was seeking a favorable settlement of the suit.

He said that Mr. Kleindienst also had expressed confidence in a Federal prosecutor in San Diego "after the prosecutor apparently quashed a tax investigation of a multi-millionaire friend of the President's."

"We are left with a nominee for Attorney General who seems to ignore the canons of legal ethics which enjoin a lawyer from even the appearance of impropriety," Senator Muskie said.

He said the I.T.T. affair eroded the credibility of the administrative branch of government, and urged the Senate to reject Mr. Kleindienst on the grounds of impropriety.

But he said that Mr. Nixon, who in 1968 attacked the nomination of Abe Fortas for Chief Justice on the same grounds, should personally settle the matter by withdrawing the Kleindienst nomination.