

Nixon and Muskie In Final Appeals To Nation on TV

NOV 2 1970

Excerpts from Muskie talk
are printed on Page 40.

By WARREN WEAVER Jr.
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Nov. 2—President Nixon and Senator Edmund S. Muskie, in what may have been a preview of the 1972 Presidential campaign, made closing appeals on national television tonight for the election of Republican and Democratic candidates.

Both the speeches—the President's a two-day-old recording of an Arizona appearance, and the Senator's a reply taped this morning—focused sharply on the issue of crime and violence, the Republican deploring it and the Democrat denying any responsibility by his party.

The President appeared in a 15-minute condensed version of the speech he de-

Continued on Page 40, Column 6

livered in Phoenix on Saturday, condemning "appeasement" of "thugs and hoodlums" who he said threaten American society.

Senator Muskie, coming on directly after Mr. Nixon on all three major networks, said the Republican charge that Democratic candidates favor violence and wrongdoing is "a lie, and the American people know it is a lie." He recorded his 15-minute speech in Cape Elizabeth, Me.

Both appearances were the result of last-minute decisions. The Republicans arranged Saturday for a half-hour paid time, later cut back to 15 minutes by the networks. A group of Democrats, scrambling to respond, managed to schedule and finance the Muskie appearance during the 36 hours before the program came on.

Mr. Muskie charged that the Nixon Administration was attempting to win the votes of the working men and women in the country "while they oppose your interests" in the areas of health, education and the economy.

"They really believe that if they can make you afraid enough or angry enough," the Maine Democrat said of the Republicans, "you can be tricked into voting against yourself. It is all part of the same contempt, and tomorrow you can show them the mistake they have made."

Senator Muskie's appearance caused a considerable stir within the Democratic party. The Democratic National Committee had asked the networks yesterday for free time to reply to the President, pleading lack of funds, but the request was rejected this morning.

A Hasty Formation

Meanwhile, a new Ad Hoc Committee for National Unity was hastily organized under the chairmanship of W. Averell Harriman, the former New York Governor and diplomat, to raise the necessary \$150,000 to get Senator Muskie on the air, elevating him inescapably in the process to greater national prominence.

Senator Muskie closed his appeal by saying that the basic political divisions in the country were not between radical and reactionary, conservative and liberal or Democrat and Republican, but rather between "the politics of fear and the politics of trust."

"One says: 'You are encircled by monstrous dangers: Give us power over your freedom so we may protect you,'" he declared. "The other says: 'The world is a baffling and hazardous place, but it can be shaped to the will of men.'"

Originally the Republicans had tentatively scheduled an election eve telecast, from California. Then a week ago they canceled the reservation, only to reinstate it after the President had been stoned by protesters in San Jose, Calif., Thursday night and had responded with one of his strongest speeches on Saturday.

In the Phoenix address, Mr. Nixon charged that "the terrorists of the far left" were trying to make him a prisoner in the White House and continued:

"As long as I am President no band of violent thugs is going to keep me from going out and speaking with the American people wherever they want to hear me and wherever I want to go."

"The answer to a wave of violence," the President continued, "is not a wave of repression—that is exactly what the violent few want so they can enlist the sympathy of the moderates. The answer to violence is a strong application of American justice."

Senator Muskie charged that the campaign had produced "name-calling and deception of

almost unprecedented volume." He declared that what he portrayed as slander and questioning of patriotism "is not simply the overzealousness of a few local leaders."

"It has been led, inspired and guided from the highest offices in the land," he said.

"The danger from this assault," Mr. Muskie continued, "is not that a few more Democrats might be defeated. The country can survive that. The true danger is that the American people will have been deprived of that public debate, that opportunity for fair judgment, which is the heartbeat of the democratic process."

At a midday news conference, Mr. Harriman reported that the committee financing the Muskie telecast included as co-chairmen Mrs. Martin Luther King Jr.; I. W. Abel, president of the United Steelworkers; Leonard Woodcock, President of the United Automobile Workers; John D. Rockefeller 4th, Secretary of State of West Virginia, and Sargent Shriver, the former Ambassador to France who is now a fund-raiser for the Democrats.

Earlier, the Democratic National Chairman, Lawrence F. O'Brien, had estimated that a 15-minute political program on all three networks would cost approximately \$150,000, over and above production expenses.

The Nixon-Muskie half-hour was shown by the National Broadcasting Company at 7:30 P.M., the American Broadcasting Company at 8:30 and the Columbia Broadcasting System at 9.

Mr. Harriman said that a group of young followers of the late Senator Robert F. Kennedy

and of Senator Eugene J. McCarthy had suggested organizing the Muskie response to President Nixon and Vice President Agnew. The only one he would identify by name was Sam Brown, coordinator of the Vietnam Moratorium Committee.

It was understood, however, that support for the idea had also come from the Democratic Senate candidates in California and Ohio—Representative John V. Tunney and Howard M. Metzenbaum—Bill D. Moyers, White House press secretary under President Johnson, and Richard Goodwin, a speechwriter for Mr. Johnson and President Kennedy.

Mr. Harriman explained that he and his associates felt that the party needed a single spokesman to respond to the President, rather than the group that an impartial Democratic National Chairman would have been required to recommend.