

Nixon Accused by Muskie of Dividing the Nation

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ATLANTIC CITY, May 28— Senator Edmund S. Muskie today accused the Nixon Administration of dividing the nation and threatening democracy by its military and economic policies.

The Maine Democrat, who ran for Vice President in 1968 and is considered a leading contender for the 1972 Presidential nomination, charged here at the biennial convention of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America that the President's policies were spawning domestic unrest and international peril for the American people.

Describing the nation's environment as not just water, air and land, but also as the kind of society people live in, Mr. Muskie asserted that the war in Southeast Asia and the arms race constituted "the greatest threat to our environment I can imagine."

"Not only do they threaten

Assails President's Military and Economic Policies as Threat to Democracy

death and destruction for mankind," he said, "but they drain off the resources we need for building a better society," he said. "They are helping to divide our people so that they cannot act to save themselves from domestic disorder or international danger."

Mr. Muskie continued:

"Over \$80-billion a year is going into the war machine. It is producing inflation and limiting investments in the schools, housing, job training, medical care systems, pollution control programs and transportation systems we need so desperately.

"And the economic policies of this Administration are multiplying the effects of the economic and social waste of the war effort. Those economic policies, coupled with the rhetoric of fear, have divided our

nation and weakened confidence in our Democratic institutions at a time when we can least afford it.

"The question that faces us is simple and clear: is our country to be united in its dedication of democracy and dignity for all men, where promise and performance are one and the same, or is it to be a nation torn apart by unchecked and unrestrained attack and unanswered grievances?"

At a brief news conference after his address, Mr. Muskie expressed concern about an agreement signed yesterday between South Vietnam and Cambodia that gave Saigon a mandate for military operations in Cambodia.

He called it "an uneasy alliance" and said that if it meant that the South Vietnamese were to remain in Cambodia for a long time it could affect the extent of United States involvement in the war in Vietnam.

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