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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 7, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR PATRICK J. BUCHANAN

FROM: KEN KHACHIGIAN *Ken*

SUBJECT: MUSKIE

Re the Muskie address before the Liberal party dinner in New York last night. He sure fooled me. I very much expected him to give a "flaming liberal speech," but instead he chastized the liberals, essentially, for being too ideological.

In short, Muskie has probably made a central strategic decision to quit playing footsies with the far left and take a leaf out of Scammon/Wattenberg to cut Scoop off at the pass. This theory can only be based on a Muskie assumption that he has good support going into the primaries, and that he would rather be the nominee without having to kiss up to the party leftists.

If Muskie wins the nomination, and if he keeps up the current line, he cannot be campaigned against as easily as some dewy-eyed radical. A few months from now, we may have to start hitting Muskie harder from the left -- portraying him somewhere to the right of Lyndon Johnson; but it should be done in a way only to reflect the view of far left Dems such as McGovern rather than the view of, say, MONDAY.