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United States Senate
 COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

T. EDWARD BRASWELL, JR., CHIEF COUNSEL AND STAFF DIRECTOR

May 12, 1972

The Honorable Edward I. Bernstein
 58 Payson Street
 Portland, ME 04102

Dear Eddie:

I want you to know how deeply I appreciate your agreeing to chair Portland for me. Your leadership is my best hope for victory in your area.

This is going to be a difficult campaign because of the tremendous amount of money that the opposition is spending to defeat me. I am greatly surprised at the number of paid workers the opposition seems to have and the reported high wages that are being paid.

I cannot hope to match the spending that the opposition is engaging in. Yet, even if I had unlimited funds I would not engage in campaign spending extravagance aimed at wooing the voters. To me that just isn't the Maine way.

It has been my policy through the years to conduct campaigns at the lowest possible spending level. I could not do this without the support and loyalty of such wonderful volunteers as you. I am proud of this kind of a campaign for it shows that those who are taking their own personal time and effort for me do it because they believe in me rather than accepting pay. And I am confident that a non-paid volunteer who believes in his or her candidate is far more effective than ten paid workers.

I shall do what I can to help you help me. We are now working on making up lists of those in your area who so kindly signed my primary nomination petitions. We will send those lists to you when they have been completed so that you can enlist their support to help you. We will also be making a list of those who have volunteered to help on the campaign.

Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Maine Historical Society
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 Date: May 12, 1972
 Description: Letter from Senator Margaret Chase Smith to Edward I. Bernstein

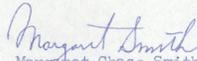
The Honorable Edward I. Bernstein
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I think we need have no fear if we can get the Smith Supporters to go to the polls and vote and not take anything for granted. Two of the most important ways to do this is by canvassing street-by-street in checking the registered voter lists and calling urging that they get to the polls to vote -- and doing as much as possible to line up volunteer transportation to get the voters to the polls and checking on election day to see that they do get to the polls to vote. If we do this, there is no need to spend vast sums of money and we will not only win but we will win the Maine way.

I realize how very much I am asking of you -- and in that realization I do hope that you know how deeply I appreciate your personal generosity to me. Equally I hope that my service to Maine over the years has been sufficiently dedicated and conscientious as to at least partially justify your faith in me.

Gratefully,


Margaret Chase Smith
United States Senator

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May 12, 1972

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United States Senator