

**Introductory Remarks for Senator Dianne Feinstein, CNP Board Chairman Peter Kovler**

*-As Prepared for Delivery-*

**2009 Edmund S. Muskie Distinguished Public Service Awards**

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What an honor it is for me this evening to introduce Senator Feinstein; but at this extraordinary moment for this organization I also wanted to say just a quick word about our President, Tim Roemer.

As most of you know Tim has been nominated by President Obama to be the nation's Ambassador to India and that nomination is pending confirmation in the Senate. Quite candidly, the Center just could not have achieved so much over the last several years without Tim's energy and imagination and perseverance and judgment, and all of it done with a great sense of humor. And while at a later time I hope to elaborate on this, I hope you all will take just a moment to join me in thanking him for this magnificent service.

Nearly six and one half years ago at a critical moment following 9/11 and in the middle of the most serious life and death debates on war and peace, the Center for National Policy hosted a major address by our honoree this evening. The title of this prescient speech was: The New Bush Doctrine, The Wrong Path to Our Nation's Security.

For this speech alone, Senator Feinstein deserves this award in honor of Senator Muskie. And I suggest to everybody here that they use a search engine and put in Senator Feinstein and Center for National Policy if they would like to read the words of this important American leader who was able to see, so to speak, what was coming around the corner.

To highlight just of her thoughts however:

- 1) "If the mission in Iraq is really disarmament, then why not give the inspection time to accomplish this. With this course, Saddam is both deterred and contained, as he has been for twelve years."
- 2) "If the long term goal of our foreign policy is to help build a world where we have more allies than adversaries, more friends than enemies, and more prosperity than poverty, a doctrine of unilateral preemptive action will most certainly work against that goal."
- 3) "This unilateral approach and strategy stands in sharp contrast to a successful bipartisan tradition born out of the Second world War—a tradition of supporting a world ordered by law, with capable international institutions and reciprocal restraints on action."

I could go on and on, but I think that speech and subsequent events tell the story.

But we are honored to have Senator Feinstein here tonight not just for her foresight, but also because we are honoring an entire career.

Her service in San Francisco as president of the Board of Supervisors and then Mayor is legendary; and it should serve as one reminder—as in the career of Ed Muskie who once served as Maine’s Governor—that a successful career in administration is an ideal background for knowing what a legislator should do.

Her service in the Senate has included the key environmental decisions on the all important appropriations committee; a series of judgments that is most fitting given Ed’s innovative work in the 1960s on environmental issues.

But I think it is her service today as Chairman of the Intelligence Committee that is most fitting for this award.

I think that Ed Muskie lived the political life of a man who had to come to grips with how our country misunderstood Vietnam and the Vietnam War. And I think that today he would emphasize more than anyone how a country badly needs the best possible intelligence assessments to evaluate whether another nation has dangerous weapons of mass destruction as was the case in Iraq; where we need the best possible intelligence assessments in Afghanistan so that our soldiers are not unnecessarily put in harm’s way; and the need for the best possible intelligence assessments in Pakistan so that we know about the safety of nuclear weapons; the chances of either capturing or learning more about Osama Bin Laden.

These are, of course, just three of the numerous examples of where superb intelligence gathering and understanding are needed.

In short, I think there is no more perfect person, and no more perfect time, for the Center for National Policy to honor California Senator Dianne Feinstein.