

TV What's On? RADIO

CBS-TV Trips Lightly Through World of RFK

By **KAY GARDELLA**

(Reprinted from yesterday's late editions)

The chance to become President of the United States "occurs to every little boy," demurred Sen. Robert Kennedy (D-N.Y.) Tuesday night during an hour of CBS Reports, devoted to a cursory examination of his political career and future.

Roger Mudd, somewhat self-conscious, was the reporter on this glossy program that lightly penetrated the Kennedy mystique, but cannot be awarded bravados for in-depth analysis. Personal analysis, we learned, is shunned by the Senator, who either lapses into deep silence when asked to explain negative aspects of his public image, such as charges of ruthlessness, or he reverts to humor as an escape.

The Kennedy humor, of course, was at its sharpest with the late President John F. Kennedy, whose classic remark about his brother when he was made Attorney General still delights this critic. To a reporter who insinuated at the time that he gained the position through influence, the President smiled broadly and cracked: "He has to get his experience some place."

Retains Family Wit

Sen. Kennedy, a far more retiring, serious type than JFK, still finds it hard to suppress the inherited family wit, as evidenced during the Mudd-conducted interviews at Hickory Hill, his Virginia estate, at public functions when the humor was self directed.

Frequently during the on-camera sessions, his Bugs Bunny smile appeared, but one sensed an effort on the part of the Senator to suppress the temptation of a bright remark least it be misinterpreted. His quip about young boys dreaming of becoming President was a light reply to a question on the lips of Democrats and Republicans today.

RFK for President?

Is Robert Kennedy aiming his sights at the Presidency in 1972? The Senator hedged. "It's vague, I don't know," he replied, further explaining that he doesn't believe in planning ahead. New York's Republican Sen. Javits said he thinks "it's a real hot possibility." Sen. John Tower (R-Texas) commented: "I regard it as almost a certainty."

Los Angeles Mayor Sam Yorty, who locked horns with Kennedy during the Watts riots, insisted he's "trying for the Presidential nomination... he is almost insidiously clever in the way he figures the political possibilities." Yorty's vitriolic comments, along with those of writer Gore Vidal, represented in part the anti-Kennedy faction.

Nixon's Remark

Kennedy was painted as a man who can be many things to many people in this fan-magazine-type hour which carefully skirted inflammable issues such as the LBJ-Kennedy hostilities, which received considerable soothing syrup, except for an unchallenged Richard Nixon remark.

The onetime Presidential nominee commented: "As long as President Johnson has anything to say about it—Bobby Kennedy will never go anywhere."

Scenes of Kennedy with his wife Ethel and 10 children at home, with his loyal staff in his Washington office, where he received 3,500 letters in one day on Vietnam, and at various vacation spots, added interesting touches to the TV portrait. But one obvious omission were shots of the Senator with his much-publicized sister-in-law, Jacqueline Kennedy.

The omission was most interesting and implied that this was strictly a Bobby Kennedy hour, with the TV limelight partially shared by his brother, Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.).

Conspiracy Trial Dispute:

On top of NBC's Monday night special criticizing New Orleans DA Jim Garrison, a Louisiana judge yesterday accused unnamed individuals of "deplorable and contemptuous" disregard of court guidelines concerning pretrial publicity in the Clay L. Shaw Presidential conspiracy trial.

Criminal District Court Judge Edward Haggerty told newsmen

"I have kept and am keeping a full file on all violations of the orders issued by this court."

The guidelines referred to, issued after Shaw's indictment, forbid public discussion as to Shaw's guilt or innocence or "statements concerning any evidence either for or against him."

On Tuesday, a witness in Garrison's investigation, Perry R. Russo, charged that members of an NBC news crew had sought his help to "wreck the Garrison investigation." On the program, NBC said "Russo's answers to a series of lie detector questions indicated in the language of the polygraph operator, 'deceptive criteria'."

The network denied Russo's accusations.



Sen. Robert Kennedy

Roger Mudd

- Louch
- Mohr
- Casper
- Callahan
- Conrad
- Felt
- Gale
- Rosen
- Sullivan
- Tavel
- Trotter
- Tele. Room
- Holmes
- Gandy

*Belmont
L. Block*

- The Washington Post
- Times Herald
- The Washington Daily News
- The Evening Star (Washington)
- The Sunday Star (Washington)
- Daily News (New York) 18
- Sunday News (New York)
- New York Post
- The New York Times
- World Journal Tribune (New York)
- The Sun (Baltimore)
- The Worker
- The New Leader
- The Wall Street Journal
- The National Observer
- People's World

JUN 22 1967

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