

This story came out with 2 articles by O'Donnell - broke -



Photos by UPI

The Shrivers and the Kennedys go to court: 'It is not easy today for parents to think about their children's future'

THE KENNEDYS:
Busting the Boys

As apparently it must to all affluent American communities these days, the pot scene—and the pot bust—have come to Hyannis Port, Mass. "There's really nothing for a young guy to do around here at night except smoke pot," says the teen-aged son of a physician in the resort town on Cape Cod. "Everyone does it." Indeed, so heavy was the local drug culture at the beginning of the summer that the police launched a modest undercover effort to penetrate it. They finally hauled their dragnet in last week—and snared two young bearers of the biggest names in town: Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and his cousin R. Sargent Shriver 3rd, both 18.

To outward appearances, the news caught the Kennedys quite off guard. Hours before the case broke, young Shriver's father, recently returned from a stint as U.S. ambassador to France, had addressed a California audience on the generation gap and told them: "It is not easy today for parents to think about the future of their children. What do you do when your children go with a group in which marijuana or other drugs are beginning to be used?" What Shriver did, when informed of the police action, was to rush back to Hyannis Port and join the other Kennedys in standing foursquare

behind their offspring.* "He has never been involved in any such situation before and we trust he never will be again," said the elder Shriver. "We love him and for all of his 16 years he has been a joy and a pride to us." Said Ethel Kennedy: "This is, of course, a matter for the authorities to decide. But Bobby is a fine boy. We have always been proud of him and I will stand by him."

The two cousins, inseparable during their summer vacation at the Kennedy Compound, had been served with summonses accusing them of delinquency for being in possession of marijuana on July 10. Nearly 40 other teenagers and adults also were summoned in connection with alleged drug offenses during the summer.

When the two youngsters appeared with their elders—including Uncle Teddy—at the Barnstable County Court House, they were conservatively clad and seemed somewhat closer-cropped than in previous days. At a 25-minute closed-door hearing, the boys pleaded "not true" to the charges and Judge Henry L. Murphy followed the customary practice in juvenile cases and continued the cases "without finding" for a year. It was, in effect, a period of probation, and, the judge explained, there will be no further legal proceedings against them "unless they get into trouble again."

The secrecy traditional in cases involving juveniles thereupon settled over the affair. But Hyannis Port youngsters supplied some local color. They pointed out a two-car garage about 500 feet outside the Kennedy Compound as the likely

scene of any smoke-in involving the cousins. Nondescript on the outside, the garage's interior is spray-painted in bright psychedelic colors and serves as a daytime "tot lot." Its alleged use as a nighttime pot lot, other sources said, was probably reported by a scruffy, hippie-garbed cabdriver who often caroused with neighborhood kids and who recently disappeared after telling his boss that he was really an undercover police narcotics agent. "There's a big drug scene here," a young surfer cheerfully admitted to one reporter, "but I always thought Bobby Kennedy was the one person in Hyannis who was immune from getting busted."

*The Kennedys are by no means the only public figures called on to do that these days. Among other notables whose offspring have got into trouble recently over pot or other drugs: Senators George McGovern of South Dakota, Alan Cranston of California, and Ernest Hollings of South Carolina, Governors Tom McCall of Oregon and William Cahill of New Jersey, Democratic gubernatorial candidate Jesse Unruh of California, New York industrialist (and defeated gubernatorial candidate) Howard Samuels, actors Robert Taylor, Henry Fonda and Darren McGavin, singer Tennessee Ernie Ford, sportscaster Frank Gifford, author William Manchester and Black Muslim leader Elijah Muhammad.