

Sorensen on JFK's Death & Today's Restless Young

The assassination of President Kennedy may have contributed to the current "dissatisfactions" of the younger generation, the late President's friend Theodore C. Sorensen said today.

"The younger generation felt a strong sense of identity with Kennedy, a feeling that he understood their anxieties and listened to their grievances, even when his broader commitments did not permit him to implement their viewpoints," Sorensen wrote in a copyrighted article in the current issue of McCall's.

'Sense of Isolation'

"His removal by death from the White House may well have increased among many young people a sense of isolation and alienation, inducing some of them to express their concerns and dissatisfactions in picket lines and protest movements."

In the magazine article, commemorating the 50th anniversary of Kennedy's birth today, Sorensen said the "Kennedy legend, distinct from the Kennedy legacy," was made up of "both good myths and bad . . . History will correct these myths with perspective long after those who write them are forgotten."

"For the present, those of us



THEODORE C. SORENSEN

who knew John Kennedy as he really was—neither God nor devil—must content ourselves with the knowledge that his place in both history and human hearts is too secure to be deflected by the carping of lesser men," said Kennedy's biographers.

"It is not dependent on the

James A. Wechsler: "Life Is Unfair." Page 33.

Clayton Fritchey: "JFK and Vietnam." Page 30. 6

Mary McGrory: "Jackie & LBJ: So Near, So Far." Page 7.

Harris Poll: "Two-thirds Think Assassination Was a Plot." Page 46.

future of his brothers or his widow or his party or his successor, much less on the impact of any writing or writer."

Sorensen noted that Kennedy's choice of President Johnson as his running mate in 1960 was "at least in part because his background and style and strength appealed to a different segment of the electorate from that with which Kennedy was strongest."

A 'Dual' Administration

"Those who are quick to criticize the changes under Mr. Johnson should bear in mind that President Kennedy, on more than one occasion, publicly spoke of his Administration as the Kennedy-Johnson Administration," Sorensen wrote.

"Let no one assume that Kennedy's continuation in the White House would have somehow vanquished by magic all the problems facing President Johnson today."