

(P. 3) Senator McCarthy speaks

In view of the victory of Senator Robert F. Kennedy and the subsequent assassination attempt, the editors felt that portions of the following article on Senator McCarthy would not be pertinent to the current political picture in California.

However, Senator McCarthy told reporters early Wednesday morning that it was his intention to continue his campaign for the Presidency, and was on his way to Washington to confer with President Johnson and Vice President Humphrey.

We have, therefore, decided to publish the article in full, but with the reminder that it was written prior to the significant developments of the last two days.

PAUL EBERLE

Friday afternoon, while campaigning in Southern California, Senator Eugene J. McCarthy granted the following exclusive interview to the Los Angeles Free Press.

I had been travelling with the Senator and his staff on a chartered jet, and we had just taken off from San Diego International Airport, headed for Burbank. I was seated on the front seat of the airplane, which was reserved for McCarthy.

As soon as we had taken off, the senator, who had been chatting with some other newsmen, came and sat down next to me. Taped on the wall in front of us, was a cardboard sign, made with black crayon or marking pencil, which read: EUGENE J. MCCARTHY, THE EMPEROR OF ICE CREAM.

I began by asking him about this.

FP: I see that you've been labeled "The Emperor of Ice Cream." Does that mean you're an admirer of Wallace Stevens?

MC: Not particularly. I just got tired of that airlines food, and somebody brought an ice cream float, and I started eating ice cream for a couple of days. And

that's why they started calling me The Emperor of Ice Cream. Actually, I'm not much of an ice cream eater.

FP: You seem to be drawing large enthusiastic crowds here in Southern California. Do you think you've reached a turning point in this campaign?

MC: Well, it started in Oregon really. We had larger crowds in Oregon, generally, than in California. Kennedy had ... and we thought we would go this way, once beyond Indiana and Nebraska and I'm glad of it. It's a question of what we'd begun in Oregon.

FP: I noticed a high concentration of young people in the morning. Has this tentatively the case?

MC: Well, the crowd was pretty well made up of young people. We've had strong support from the college students. They're always a good crowd.

FP: What is the fact of the new generation with the American

are being called up. We also, having done it, ought to extend it to those who have gone to jail to see if they want to come out and accept these conditions, or those who have left the country, to come back in.

FP: As you've probably noticed, when speaking at Universities, there is a strong feeling among students about the assassination, and a strong belief that the Warren Report is a fraud ...

MC: Yeah!

FP: ... and there seems to be a deepening alienation between the government and the people over this. What do you feel needs to be done in that area?

MC: I hesitate to say anything very specific on it, excepting that I have said that I would look at—or have someone I trust look into what government files there are. There is an anxiety in the country which we ought to satisfy if we can.

FP: You feel that there are legitimate doubts about the official version of the assassination? ...

MC: Well, I think there are grave doubts, but I don't know whether there's anything in the files that would do anything to allay the doubts. It might create new doubts without giving the people any substance to them. I'd be prepared to have someone look at the files, and on the basis of what I might learn from that, or they might recommend, to raise the question of whether they ought to be opened or not.

FP: What about the Eastland Internal Security Bill? And HUAC?

MC: Well you mean this last bill they passed? Well, I was against

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