

HW:

By now this is ancient history, but we picked up here a couple of angles on the Ted Sorenson snafu which might not have reached you.

One was from Sorenson himself. He appeared on the Robert MacNeil-Jim Lehrer Report on PBS the day after he withdrew his name from nomination. He appeared genuinely startled at the concerted opposition which had been mustered against him in the Senate. He said that before the hearings he contacted all but one of the committee to explain his views and all but one appeared open minded and not hostile. The one exception was Goldwater, who refused to see him. At the hearing itself he found that a majority of them had turned 180 degrees against him. He professed inability to understand this volte face except as a result of concerted lobbying against him and the possibility that they didn't want someone with his knowledge of the Kennedy plots (he was not more specific, unfortunately) heading up an outfit like the CIA.

The source of the lobbying against him was hinted rather openly by the NY Times, which said the CIA descended on the Senate en masse and turned the committee members around against Sorenson.

jdwl2feb77