

## Kennedy Praises Nixon, Asks Hill Olive Branch

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It is not true that Edward Kennedy is looking for a job in the Nixon administration. But an impartial political observer could well conclude that he is from the praise Kennedy lavished on the President Monday night in Los Angeles.

Kennedy's prepared remarks not only were conciliatory toward Mr. Nixon. He was downright effusive in the way he described the President.

He praised the President for "bringing new faces into old agencies," for sensing that "the opportunity is there" to find new directions for old approaches, for his trip to China, for his actions in imposing wage and

price controls, as well as other steps.

Kennedy also said:

"There is more good will in Congress now toward Mr. Nixon than perhaps at any time in his career in public life."

And he added:

"... I, for one, will extend the olive branch to the administration in the coming Congress."

Kennedy's forum was a \$500-a-plate testimonial dinner for Los Angeles attorney Eugene L. Wyman and his wife, Rosalind, by the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

This forum was, in some ways, as interesting as Ken-

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nedey's warm words for the President. Wyman, the honored guest, was openly hostile to the candidacy of George McGovern this year. He was hostile to the political forces symbolized by McGovern and is regarded in California as the antithesis of the "new politics" McGovern espoused. In short, he does not represent the "constituency of change" to which both McGovern and Kennedy have appealed.

Nonetheless, Kennedy referred to him as "one of the miracles of California," "one of the finest trial lawyers of his generation . . . a legend in his time as a fundraiser for public and private causes."

In the course of his speech, Kennedy departed from his prepared text and omitted many of the references to the President. But, as is customary in such political addresses, his aides said he stood entirely behind his printed text as released to the press.

Politically, the most intriguing aspect of the speech was neither the actual words Kennedy spoke from the rostrum nor the kind of audience he was addressing. It was why Kennedy chose to praise the President in such glowing terms at all.

In the wake of George McGovern's disastrous defeat, Kennedy has emerged as clearly the most prominent Democrat on the national scene. He is today the most likely Democratic presidential nominee in 1976. And during the last campaign Kennedy was severely critical of the President and his policies.

It is Kennedy, too, who is planning to lead a congressional investigation into the charges of political espionage emanating from the White House growing out of the Watergate bugging case.

His words during the campaign certainly gave no hint of a switch to an era of good feeling after the election. On Oct. 20, for instance, in a speech in Hackensack, N.J., Kennedy denounced the Nixon administration in these words:

### "Horsemen Riding Again"

"The Four Horsemen of ancient days bore the names of war and pestilence, famine and death. Now, in the Nixon administration, the Four Horsemen are riding again. They bear the names of incompetence, favoritism, secrecy and corruption.

"It isn't easy to be found with your hand in the till, your foot in your mouth, your tongue in your cheek and your eye on the polls all at the same time, but that's what this Nixon administration is doing."

But time—and lost elections—apparently heal all things. Now, Kennedy's words could not be kinder.

Here, in a verbatim extract, is what his prepared

speech had to say about the President:

"Now that peace is near in Indochina, now that the passions of the campaign are subsiding and the pressure of a coming election no longer affects the policies of both our parties, America as a nation has a new horizon of unparalleled opportunity. On almost every front, we see the invitation. We can take new actions to correct old errors. We can find new solutions for old problems, we can find new directions for old approaches.

"Already, by bringing new faces into old agencies, at a time when the glow of his almost incredible election victory is still bright, President Nixon has shown that he knows the opportunity is there. To a large extent, it is one that consists of the precious gift of time—time in which the good intentions of the government are presumed, time in which the normal conflicts of politics are suspended, time in which a new but ongoing national administration has the chance to read its mandate and to chart its course—to determine the new directions it will take.

"In every area of foreign and domestic policy, we have a unique opportunity for leadership and national renewal over the next four years, and every citizen will be winner if we take advantage of it. The President knows that fact as well as any of us in Congress, and he also knows how to take advantage of opportunities

when the national climate is right.

"Twice in the past four years, on two of the most important matters of our time—China and the national economy—the President has shown his willingness to set aside a prior policy, and to launch an imaginative different course. With respect to Peking, whatever else the historians may write of Mr. Nixon's administration, we know that at least they will say it was he who brought America's China policy out of the Korean Dark Ages, and into the sunlight of the modern Pacific world.

"And with respect to the economy, whatever problems of timing and inequity may now exist—and they do exist—we know that the wage-price freeze of 1971 was right.

"If we needed any additional proof, we saw it in the way that Great Britain recently chose to model her own new economic policy on Mr. Nixon's effective action last year."

Kennedy's speech also contained more words of praise.

"If I read the future correctly," he said, "then I see the range of foreign and domestic issues before us as a field that presents a very great opportunity for effective cooperation between Congress and the administration, especially in vital areas such as national security and the economy and health and education. And I say that because there is more good will in Congress now toward Mr. Nixon than per-

haps at any time in his career in public life.

"We have differences in policies, to be sure, and some of those differences are profound, but they are no longer necessarily colored by the difficult partisan passions that so often obscured the issues before.

### Offers Olive Branch

"Without abandoning any of the basic principles we have fought for, we in Congress, and I for one, will extend the olive branch to the administration in the coming Congress. I am confident that we can close ranks, and join together in launching a new and effective era of progress on every issue that matters deeply to our people."

Ted Kennedy was not the only prominent Democrat to hail an erstwhile political enemy. Hubert H. Humphrey, who knows first hand of the perils of competing against Mr. Nixon, had several complimentary things to say about the President yesterday at a Capitol Hill press conference.

Humphrey, after returning from a trip to the Soviet Union and Poland, said his talks with Soviet Premier Alexei N. Kosygin and others convinced him that "the visit of President Nixon to the Soviet Union . . . has produced a new era" in U.S.-Russian relations.

Thanks to the Nixon visit last spring, he said, "there is at least an opportunity for rational discussion" of trade and security matters involving Russia with "no rhetoric, bombast."