

Rivalry Is Real but Friendly

Potshots Are Out in HHH-RFK 'Feud'

By Julius Duscha

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Hubert Humphrey and Robert Kennedy — the principals in what is billed as the biggest feud in town — are painfully aware that their political destiny is not likely to be determined by oratorical potshots and elaborate planning.

Humphrey is Vice President and Kennedy is a Senator with a nationwide constituency all because of a horrible event in Dallas over which neither had any control.

Their rivalry is real and is rooted in their ambitions to be President, but both understand the uncertainties of politics and of life itself.

So Kennedy was able to write a jesting note to Humphrey not long ago saying he felt as if he were "a

the Vice President had likened a suggestion by the Senator on Vietnamese negotiations to "letting the fox in the chicken coop."

And Humphrey did not hesitate to invite Kennedy to ride to New York with him in a vice presidential plane last January to keep a speaking date with the Vice President's liberal friends in Americans for Democratic Action while Humphrey himself was talking at Brooklyn charity

Neither Is a Free Agent

The Vice President is a prisoner of President Johnson's policies and whims. As Humphrey himself noted in a speech to the National Press Club on Friday, even the wings of the eagle on the vice presidential seal droop as if he were "always ready for a soft landing". But Kennedy is a prisoner of his own name, his own fame and the much greater fame and martyrdom of his late brother.

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"I'd feed yon lean and hungry look to the lions if I could only be sure the lions weren't overmatched."

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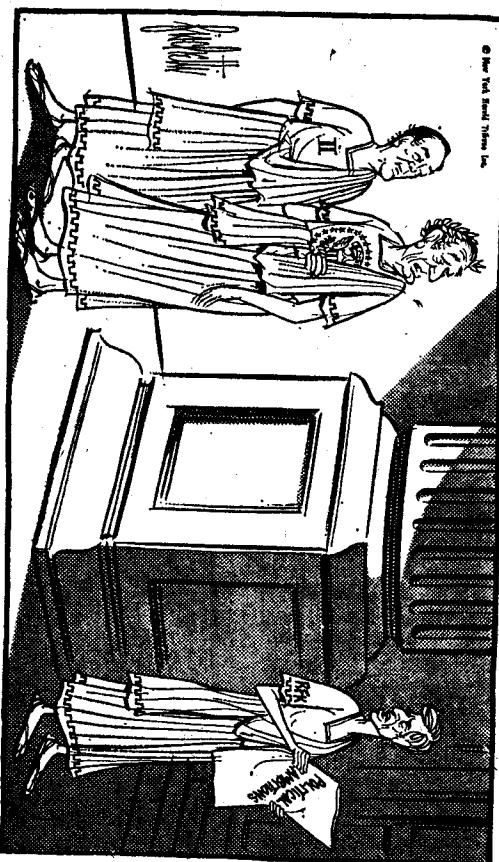
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1972 — the earliest possible year he could seek the Democratic presidential nomination—is six years away and that events are hard enough to control from year to year without looking ahead to the next decade.

If Mr. Johnson runs for another term and is re-elected in 1968, he rather than Humphrey or Kennedy can determine who will succeed him as the Democratic

nominee in 1972.

Mr. Johnson is a man who savors power and no one who knows him can believe that he would fail to pick his successor or that his successor or that his choice

It probably would be Humphrey, but relations have often cooled between a President and his Vice. President.

If Mr. Johnson should die in office—and three of the last eight Presidents have died in office—Humphrey would succeed him and would be all but assured of

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want to run with him to balance the ticket in 1972 and make certain that he got the liberal vote? Robert Kennedy perhaps?

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