



By Steve Szabo—The Washington Post

**MRS. THOMAS W. BRADEN**  
.... getting friendly political advice

The Washing

SECTION C

## Is She

By Meryle Secrest  
Washington Post Staff Writer

What do you do when a close friend who is also your candidate for President is killed? Decide to sit this election out, or go on battling for the goals he thought were important?

A prominent woman Democrat described the reasons why she has decided to switch parties and work for the nomination of Governor Nelson Rockefeller for the Presidency.

She is Mrs. Thomas W. Braden, a personal friend of Mrs. John F. Kennedy who worked on Sen. Robert Kennedy's California campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination as chairman of women's activities. She has just been named chairman of a new national organization, "People for Rockefeller."

Her switch to the Rockefeller camp has led to speculation that others who were working for the late Senator's nomination may follow suit.

"I was so shattered by Senator Kennedy's death, that all things being equal, I would have gone home and



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done nothing," she said in an interview.

"But Nelson Rockefeller is a person I have known for years and worked for when I was 20. He has had a great influence on me . . . He made me feel he had confidence in what I could do.

"I think his views on the war in Vietnam and poverty in the U.S. are closest to the Senator's. He has shown the ability to get good people to work for him. He's a man who listens," she continued.

"Most of all, he is like Senator Kennedy in his ability to get people to listen to him. He's the only other candidate who can get things across to the Negroes and the poor.

"I am a great believer in supporting one's party but in this particular case I will have to say that the man is more important than the party."

She added, "I think for the people closest to Bobby, it really is tough to go to work for anyone else. On the other hand, when you think of the political choices we are likely to have . . ."

JOAN BRADEN is a tiny woman with a small, strong chin, heavily-lashed eyes and bobbed hair. Her features are irresistibly those of F. Scott Fitzgerald heroines who dance all night without losing an ounce of nerve, or Hemingway women who can climb mountains as well as any man; and her forceful handshake does nothing to dispel that impression.

She puts this vitality to use shuttling between New York, Washington and San Diego, Calif., where she lives with her husband, until recently publisher of the Daily Blade Tribune, Oceanside, Calif., and their eight children, aged 17 to 4.

She flew home for the day yesterday to celebrate July 4, after some pleading phone calls from her youngest children.

"For little children, it's like Halloween; it really matters," she said.

MRS. BRADEN first got to know Governor Rockefeller when she worked with the International Basic Economy Corporation in the early 1950s. This is a Rockefeller-

sponsored organization to work with underdeveloped countries. She also worked for him when he was Under Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare.

In fact, Governor Rockefeller introduced her to her husband, who went on to a top job with the CIA. Braden caused a sensation last year by revealing that he set up the program to give CIA subsidies to student groups and labor unions in the 1950s, in order to stop Communist expansion in Europe.

He is now a member of the California delegation to the Democratic National Convention pledged to Kennedy.

Mrs. Braden said that Governor Rockefeller approached her about working for him while she was staying with Mrs. Nicholas Longworth in Washington for the Kennedy funeral. She made up her mind a week later.

One of the considerations was that Rockefeller strongly supported gun control legislation.

"If he had been against it, I couldn't have worked for him," she said.

SHE DEFINES her goal as proving to the public that

Rockefeller has the determination to be president and the chance for nomination.

"Almost everybody I meet tells me they would vote for Rockefeller, but they think he doesn't have a chance. But one just can't believe the convention can select a man that the people don't really want," she said earnestly.

Her vice chairman for the campaign is Rosewell Gilpatric, lawyer and former deputy Secretary of Defense during the Kennedy Administration, and also a close friend of Mrs. John F. Kennedy.

(Frank Mankiewicz, Robert Kennedy's former press secretary, told The Washington Post that he had given Mrs. Braden some advice, the way he would help out a friend who asked for it, but that he is not working on the Rockefeller campaign.)

Mrs. Braden is organizing a Speakers' Bureau and calling on the advice of good friends like Frank Mankiewicz, Arthur Schlesinger, Ted Sorenson, Adam Yarmolinsky and Charles Evers, brother of Medgar Evers. All were Robert Kennedy supporters.

She wants to get a lot of mobile units traveling around the country to small towns and big city neighborhoods to spread the Rockefeller word. She is also organizing folk festivals across the country to get rural areas involved.

The fact that Mrs. Braden has only a little over a month to convince Americans that Rockefeller is "Right For Them," doesn't bother her.

"Kennedy was a dark horse, too," she said.