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SUNNY, BRIGHT
Backstairs at the White House

1936 Kennedy Book Lifts Capital Eyebrows

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Washington—There is another book in the life of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy (D-NY) which with the serialization of the William

old one, in fact, it was written in 1936 and sold for \$1.

The book was "Jim for Roosevelt," by Joseph P. Kennedy, father of the junior senator from New York, and published by Reynal and Hitchcock, New York.

Jacket Blurb

At the time of the writing, the elder Kennedy was energetically supporting President Franklin D. Roosevelt for a second term. A jacket blurb on the book called it "a forceful answer to numerous business friends who are asking 'How can you possibly support Roosevelt?'"

Although Roosevelt subsequently sent him to London as ambassador, Joe Kennedy became somewhat disenchanted with the New Deal when FDR

proceeded to run for a third and fourth term.

In one passage in the book now being quoted in some Washington quarters, the elder Kennedy said:

"I have no political ambitions for myself or for my children and I put down these thoughts about our President, conscious only of my concern as a father for the future of his family and my anxiety as a citizen that the facts about the President's philosophy be not lost in a fog of unworthy penitence."

'Key' Statement

The interesting statement, of course, is Kennedy's statement that he had no political ambition for his children. Whether President Johnson is aware of this book is not

known, but if Sen. Robert F. Kennedy continues his criticism of Administration policy in Vietnam, the 1936 book may be dusted off and examined at some greater length.

As a political document, of course, it would have no real validity today. In 1936, Joseph Kennedy's sons were of an age when they scarcely could be regarded as aspirants for any political office; Robert Kennedy, in fact, was less than 20 at the time.

In any case, however, the book is a curiosity which undoubtedly will find its way into the dialog of this highly political town.

Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey is turning into a four-star hit speaker at some after-dark affairs here, particularly when he jaces no re-

quirement for serious oratory and can cut loose with a variety of one-liners. He would do credit at times to Bob Hope or Jack Benny.

Had Them Laughing

Humphrey was the featured speaker last week at the annual banquet of the Radio and Television Correspondents Association. The guests comprised a typical Washington audience in that they were rather case hardened when it came to political humor.

Humphrey, however, had the many Washington political figures howling as he reeled off broadcasting personnel, and one wisecrack after another, most of them exaggerated humor dealing with the low station of a Vice President.



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book itself is in the hands of the public. But the book now being discussed in Democratic circles (Great Society division) is an