Kennedy Bars Race, Saying That Reason Is 'Purely Personal'

By TOM WICKER

WASHINGTON, July 26— Senator Edward M. Kennedy announced in Boston today that it would be "impossible" for him to run for Vice President this year.

His decision, he said, has been made for "purely personal" reasons and is "final, firm, and not subject to further consideration."

The Massachusetts Senator, who was sailing this afternoon off Cape Cod, issued the statement through a spokesman. He could not be reached for further comment.

In political circles here Mr. Kennedy's refusal to consider the Vice-Presidency this year was considered about as conclusive as he could have made it. Nevertheless, it was expected that there might still be an effort to draft him at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago next month, particularly if the Presidential nominee is Vice President Hum-

The brief Kennedy statement, also made available here, was as follows:

"Over the last few weeks, many prominent Democrats have raised the possibility of my running for Vice President

it is impossible.

"My reasons are purely personal. They arise from the change in my personal situation and responsibilities as a result of the events of last month. I know that the members of the Democratic party will understand these reasons without further elaboration.

"I have informed the Democratic candidates for the Presidency and the chairman of the convention that I will not be

cessful in the coming election

Spreading Movement

Mr. Kennedy issued this state-ment in response to a rapidly spreading movement within the Democratic party to make him Mr. Humphrey's running mate.

Mr. Humphrey's running mate.
Democratic professionals and office-holders widely assume that Mr. Humphrey will be nominated for President, although Senator Eugene J. McCarthy of Minnesota and his supporters insist that the Vice President by no mean has the nomination "locked up."

If Mr. Kennedy succeeded today in eliminating himself from

day in eliminating himself from consideration, Mr. Humphrey's alternative choices are believed to center on the following three

men:
Senator Edmund S. Muskie of
Maine, 54 years old, a Roman
Catholic, a moderate, a close
personal friend of the Vice
President's and a man already regarded as a future
Democratic floor leader if he
remains in the Senate.
Sargent Shriver, 52, now the
Ambassador to France after
having been the first director
of the Peace Corps and the
first director of the Office of
Economic Opportunity; also

Economic Opportunity; also a Roman Catholic and, more

a Roman Catholic and, more important, a brother-in-law of President Kennedy, Senator Robert F. Kennedy and Edward Kennedy.

Senator Fred R. Harris of Oklahoma, 37, Mr. Humphrey's co-campaign manager, a member of President Johnson's National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders and a young liberal regarded as the most impressive Democrat to enter the Senate in years.

on the Democratic ticket this fall. I deeply appreciate their confidence. Under normal circonfidence. Under normal circonfidence on Page 11, Column 3

Continued on Page 11, Column 3

Cumstances such a possibility would be a high honor and a challenge to further public service. But for me this years.

Continuing reports to enter the Senate in years.

Continuing reports that Senator McCarthy would be asked to join a Humphrey ticket as a party unity move were discounted by a spokesman for the Vice President. While he conceded that such a ticket might grow out of convention president.

service. But for me, this year, it is impossible.

"My reasons are purely per-the ones under active considerthe ation.

McCarthy Mr. Mr. McCarthy is not be-lieved by persons familiar with his views to be willing either to accept the Vice-Presidency or to lead a fourth party. Most or to lead a fourth party. Most political analysts believed that even if he did become Mr. Humphrey's running mate, he could not bring many of his supporters with him because of their deep resentment of the

idency and the chairman of the convention that I will not be able to accept the Vice-Presidential nomination if offered, and that my decision is final, firm, and not subject to further consideration.

"I believe, however, that there are certain vital foreign and domestic policies our party must pursue if it is to be sucmissioned by their deep resentment of the Johnson Administration and its Vice President.

Because Mr. McCarthy is a decided underdog, there has been virtually no speculation about the Vice-Presidency in the event that he defeated Mr. Humphrey for the Presidential nomination.

There is intense speculation, and is to solve our nation's however, about a running mate problems. I will be speaking for Mr. Humphrey because he out on these issues in my has not scored heavily enough capacity as United States Senin the polls to give Democrats ator in the future." for Mr. Humphrey because he has not scored heavily enough in the polls to give Democrats confidence of victory next fall many are seeking "insurance" for the ticket, and "Ted" Kennedy, 36, personable, and the brother of a President and a Presidential candidate who were assassinated seemed ideal assassinated, seemed ideal.

Former Gov. Michael V. DiSalle of Ohio has said that he will place Mr. Kennedy in nomination for President at the convention. Mr. Kennedy's statement did not specifically rule out acceptance of first place on the ticket, although such a nomination is regarded only as a long-shot possibility.

'Personal' Reasons

Among the "purely personal" reasons Mr. Kennedy might well have had in mind is that he now has general family responsibility for 15 children sponsibility for 15 children — three of his own, 10 of Robert Kennedy's and two of John Kennedy's. He is also reported by friends to be in a continu-ing state of grief and shock over the shooting of Robert Kennedy in Los Angeles on June 5. June 5.

June 5.

It might also have been in his mind that Robert Kennedy, before his death, had taken a firm position against joining Mr. Humphrey as a Vice-Presidential candidate and that his older brother's Presidential campaign last spring was generally anti-Administration in

Edward Kennedy is a some-Edward Kennedy is a some-what more moderate critic of the Administration, its domes-tic programs and the war in Vietnam than was Robert Ken-nedy. Edward heads a Senate subcommittee, however, which has severely criticized the han-dling of refugee programs in

Vietnam.

Thus, he might have felt both political and personal restraint about joining a Humphrey tick-et, although he and the Vice President have had a warm relationship since Edward Kennedy was elected to the Senate in 1962.

in 1962.

His pledge to speak out on "certain vital foreign and domestic policies our party must pursue" appeared to have a double-edged meaning.

Friends have reported that the Senator hopes to have an influence on the Vietnam and other planks of the platform that the Democrats will adopt at Chicago. In addition, he is considered almost certain to move his own political career

eventually onto the national stage, as his brothers did.
Although he cited "purely personal" reasons for his statement, many observers believed it was also a hard-headed political choice.
A poll by Louis Harris suggested that Mr. Kennedy might add as many as five million votes to the Democratic ticket

next fall. In addition, he was being importuned by leading party members — numerous Governors, for example, and Mayor Richard J. Daley of Chicago — to accept for the good of the party.

Nevertheless, many political observers believe that Mr. Kennedy's own future is so brilliant that a Vice-Presidential candidacy now could add little to it. In the event of victory with Mr. Humphrey, he might be relegated to a secondary office for four or eight years; in the event of defeat, the Kennedy political image might be damaged.

But even without waging a national campaign this year.

image might be damaged.

But even without waging a national campaign this year, Mr. Kennedy is certain to figure in Democratic Presidential speculation for years to come. Thus he had little to gain from going on a Humphr ticket in second place.

Mr. Kennedy is believed to have spoken out this far before the convention, which opens Aug. 26, to clarify the Democratic picture and to avoid the additional pressures that might have been brought upon him after the Republicans name their ticket in Miami Beach the week of Aug. 5. week of Aug. 5.

Pressure Still Possible

Whether the statement would completely forestall any effort at a Kennedy "draft" — for which Mayor Daley called this week — remained to be seen. If the Republicans nominate an obviously stress tides. obviously strong ticket and if Mr. Humphrey sinks in the poll standings or is hard pressed at the convention, strong pressures on Mr. Kennedy might be resumed.

The Senate Democratic lead-

The Senate Democratic leader, Mike Mansfield of Montana, said, however, that he hoped "this will end the importuning and pressuring by various individuals and groups."

"He should have the peace and quiet that he needs," Mr. Mansfield said.

Pressure developed in any

Pressure developed in another direction when Gov John B. Connally Jr. said in Texas, at about the same time Mr. Kennedy's statement was issued in Boston, that he and five other Governors had proceed. five other Governors had urged Mr. Humphrey to choose a run-ning mate "more moderate"

ning mate "more moderate" than himself. "He said he basically agreed with that," Mr. Connally told

reporters.
Mr. Connally is considered an

OVER

aspirant for Presidency and is the choice of a number of Southern Governors and conservative Democrats. Most observers here consider Mr. Connally too close to President Johnson as well as too identified as a conservative to get serious consideration from Mr. Humphrey.

from Mr. Humphrey.

The governor said that he and the others had not discussed personalities with Mr. Humphrey, but added:

"We all agreed that it would be a great mistake to throw the convention open as far as a Vice-Presidential nominee."

The meeting with the Vice President took place in Wash-

ington and included Govs. Buford Ellington of Tennessee, Robert E. McNair of South Carolina, Hulett C. Smith of West Virginia, Charles L. Terry of Delaware and Mills E. Godmin of Virginia.

Humphrey Comments

SALINA, Kan., July 26 (UPI)
—Vice President Humphrey said today that he welcomed Senator Kennedy's decision to speak out on major issues and that his decision not to run for Vice President was "understandable."

In a brief statement issued through his press secretary, Mr. Humphrey said he was confi-dent that Mr. Kennedy's par-