

A New Kennedy Drive Stirs in Wings

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Oct. 23— In Boston a few days ago, "Teddy in '72" bumper stickers were selling briskly at \$1 apiece. In New York, green-and-white buttons marked "EMK 1972" were mailed under a signature of HOPE (Help Organize People Early), along with this message:

"This is a very special button. It was made to be worn on the morning of November sixth. It will serve as our sign of hope on that morning and for the next four years."

The Village Voice, published in New York, carried a line saying Senator Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts had been holding secret meetings around the country to plan his Presidential campaign for 1972.

Spokesmen for Senator Kennedy denied emphatically that any such meetings had taken place, and said the Senator had been spending all his time in Washington and Massachusetts. His office stopped the sale of the bumper stickers, which seemed to be more of a commercial venture than a movement for Mr. Kennedy.

Surprise to Aides

The "EMK 1972" button was a surprise to the Senator's aides here. The sender was not identified, but the buttons reached some in an envelope imprinted with a post office box number at the Times Square Station in New York.

Senator Kennedy and his staff appear anxious to squelch speculation that another Kennedy drive for the White House would emerge from the ashes of what many expect to be a Democratic defeat this year.

There is, nevertheless,



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One of the buttons and an accompanying message that have been sent to potential supporters of a 1972 Presidential bid by Senator Edward M. Kennedy.

widespread public expectation that, should Richard M. Nixon win the Presidency on Nov. 5, a movement would soon be under way to make the surviving Kennedy brother the Democratic Presidential nominee in 1972.

It is considered likely in political circles that such a movement would develop with or without Senator Kennedy's consent because of the extensive Kennedy following that has been built over the years.

Senator Kennedy is participating in this year's election in a way that could enhance such a movement should it develop.

He has made television films and radio tapes for about 50 Democratic candidates for the Senate and House, most of them liberal

Democrats who share his views on the Vietnam war and on domestic problems. These are being broadcast as part of the candidates' advertising.

Unlike Senator Eugene J. McCarthy of Minnesota and other Democratic Senators, he is not traveling the country making public appearances in behalf of the candidates. He has left open the possibility that he may do some of this before the election, but he has been reticent to return to active campaigning since Robert F. Kennedy was killed in Los Angeles.

Senator Kennedy has endorsed Vice President Humphrey and appeared with him publicly when Mr. Humphrey visited Massachusetts. A number of persons close to Senator Kennedy who worked in Robert Kennedy's campaign are now working in the Humphrey campaign at Senator Kennedy's request.

For example, Gerald Dougherty, former Democratic chairman of Massachusetts, who directed Robert F. Kennedy's Indiana campaign, is heading up the Humphrey campaign in Ohio.

When Mr. Humphrey called for a conditional halt in the bombing of North Vietnam, Senator Kennedy sent him a telegram commending him for moving a step toward the position that Mr. Kennedy and other Senate doves have advocated.

Thus, short of actively campaigning for the Presidential ticket, Senator Kennedy is not alienating Democratic leaders as Senator McCarthy appears to be doing by refusing to endorse the Vice President and remaining critical of the Humphrey position on Vietnam.

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