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**LEADERS SPLITTING  
U.S. KENNEDY SAYS**

**JUN 1 1970**  
Special to The New York Times

PURCHASE, N. Y., May 30—  
Senator Edward M. Kennedy at-  
tacked the national leadership  
in a commencement address at  
Manhattanville College Satur-  
day, declaring that its conduct  
was "tearing the nation apart."

"Our leaders have taken an  
oath to preserve, protect and  
defend the Constitution and, by  
implication the goals and  
ideals for which it stands,"  
the Massachusetts Democrat  
said.

"It appears that the Consti-  
tution is being compromised at  
every opportunity — in civil  
rights, in civil liberties, in the  
assumption of warmaking  
power, in attempting to con-  
strict the power of advice and  
consent and, more broadly, by  
encouraging a divisiveness and  
combativeness among our peo-  
ple that is tearing the nation  
apart.

"We were told we would be  
brought together, but, at the  
point of contact, we have  
found fists and gas and bul-  
lets."

Senator Kennedy spoke be-  
fore 332 graduates and 1,000  
parents and friends on the  
campus of the Catholic wom-  
en's college in Westchester  
County.

Manhattanville College has  
been active in the last month  
in the Movement for a New  
Congress and its antiwar lob-  
bying activities.