

# Kennedy Is Running Hard Against 1964 Vote Total

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METHUEN, Mass., Aug. 26 — Teddy Kennedy is running against a number.

That is the political short-hand for the situation here as Senator Edward M. Kennedy campaigns for a second full term. Almost no one doubts that he will win; the major question is how close the 38-year-old Massachusetts Democrat will come to his performance in 1964, when he won 71.7 per cent of the vote in defeating Howard Whitmore Jr., a political unknown.

The Senator acknowledged in an interview this week that both politicians and pundits were certain to interpret the results that way. He knows that they will ascribe the almost inevitable fall-off in his vote to his automobile accident last year on Chappaquiddick Island, near Martha's Vineyard, in which Mary Jo Kopechne was drowned.

### Factors in 1964

Such interpretations, when they come, will overlook several factors — the 1964 Presidential race, which threw thousands of normally Republican votes into the Democratic column; the sympathy vote generated by the assassination of President Kennedy in 1963 and Senator Kennedy's plane crash in 1964, and Mr. Whitmore's weakness as an opponent.

The Kennedy staff likes to point out that only three times in the last 25 years has a candidate in Massachusetts won by more than 60 per cent — an indication, in all probability, that they do not expect to do much better than that.

"The voters need reassurance," the Senator said. "They need to see me, to be convinced that I'm reliable and mature. You can't counter the Chappaquiddick thing directly. The answer has to be implicit in what you are, what you stand for and how they see you."

But Chappaquiddick has cost the Senator some support, perhaps more than public opinion polls demonstrate. And he knows that a weak showing will severely damage whatever chances he might have for the Presidency in 1976, or in 1972 if he changes his mind and decides to run.

So Mr. Kennedy is campaigning hard—he has no out-of-state engagements between now and Election Day—and he has styled his campaign to bring himself into contact with

the voters. He will give few formal speeches, concentrating instead on a series of town meetings.

At the third such meeting, held Monday night in Burlington a "bedroom community" about 20 miles northwest of Boston the Senator, dressed in a black suit, with a black tie and black shoes, stood in the center of a square of chairs in a school gymnasium, asking for questions. When someone raised a hand, he walked over with a hand microphone, listened, then responded. Chappaquiddick was not mentioned once.

He fielded the questions easily, because none of them were particularly pointed. No criticism, just civic-lesson inquiries about drugs, women's liberation, the war in South Vietnam. Only when he expressed qualified sympathy for the Rev. Daniel Berrigan, the antiwar Jesuit priest who recently was jailed, did Mr. Kennedy give a controversial answer.

### Primary Contest

The Senator's probable opponent this fall is Josiah A. Spaulding, 46, a former Republican state chairman who is making his first try for public office. Mr. Spaulding must first defeat John J. McCarthy of Chatham, a conservative, in the primary Sept. 15. But Mr. Spaulding is expected to do that reasonably easily, if only because he has the state convention's endorsement, and Republicans here seldom upset convention's endorsement, and Republicans here seldom upset convention choices.

Mr. Spaulding is an outgoing, pleasant man with impeccable credentials in the liberal Establishment. His wife was a bridesmaid in President Kennedy's wedding; his best friend at Yale was Mayor Lindsay of New York. He opposes President Nixon on the war and the "Southern strategy."

Campaigning this morning in Methuen, a town of 32,000 near the New Hampshire state line, Mr. Spaulding said that Senator Kennedy "is not a leader because it just isn't in him," appealed to the residents of a home for the elderly to understand that suppression would not force the nation's youth back into conformity, and shook hands with everyone in sight.

His almost insuperable problem was plainly evident. No one knew who he was until he said that he was running against



GOING TO THE PEOPLE: Senator Edward M. Kennedy sips a member of the audience at a meeting in Burlington, Mass.

that he had become discouraged at times during his 33,000 miles of travel so far this year, but he insisted that Mr. Kennedy was "human, so therefore he's beatable, if you go about it right."

Mr. McCarthy, a former Commissioner of Administration in the state government, has done far less campaigning than Mr. Spaulding. But he got more votes at the state convention than most people expected—650 to Mr. Spaulding's 1,174—and he is the favorite of the party's conservative wing.

In his announcement, Mr. McCarthy promised to "take Ted Kennedy on, not play pat-a-cake with him." Since then, he has referred to the Senator as Hanoi's "Tokyo Rose" and as a "cry-baby."

Most political analysts believe that Mr. McCarthy's tactics would generate a sympathy vote for Senator Kennedy and that Mr. Spaulding would be a more formidable opponent.

### White House Links

On the other hand, there is considerable evidence that the White House would prefer Mr. McCarthy. One of his chief public backers is Lloyd B. Waring of Rockport, who was President Nixon's chief fundraiser in New England two years ago. And one of his chief private backers is Charles W. Colson, a White House aide who comes from Massachusetts.

All of the available evidence suggests that the Senator's position, barring some major unforeseen developments, is unassailable.

The most recent Boston Globe poll, which was completed after the release of the testimony in an official inquiry into Miss

Kopechne's death, gave Mr. Kennedy 60 per cent and Mr. Spaulding 25 per cent, with 15 per cent undecided or unwilling