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## Tardy Kennedys Upset Germans

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BONN, April 20 — "Your Teddy Kennedy is a rübe," a senior protocol officer of the Bonn Government said recently to an American acquaintance. The word he used means turnip in German, but it is also the slang equivalent of rapscaillon. He did not mean it kindly.

The diplomat was referring to the happenings last week when Senator Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts and his wife, Joan, descended on the Federal capital with an entourage of more than 100, including the Boston Pops Orchestra.

What annoyed the protocol official and nearly everyone else who had anything to do with the Kennedys here was their seemingly unbreakable habit of showing up late for every appointment.

The Germans in this century have not enjoyed a reputation abroad for good manners. But one point of etiquette that they carefully observe is punctuality.

So it was that Kennedy tardiness made a bad impression not only on their official hosts but also on the German press.

### Concert Was Benefit

The occasion was a benefit concert at the Beethoven Hall, with Mrs. Kennedy as the reader in the Pops Orchestra's performance of Prokofiev's "Peter and the Wolf."

A critic for the Hamburg Die Welt said she had done the job "with the voice of a long-suffering newscaster."

The waiting for the Kennedys in Germany began in Hamburg, where Mrs. Kennedy slept through a reception planned for her. It continued in Bonn at the Town Hall, where she kept Mayor Peter Kramer and his fire department band waiting 40 minutes until she showed up in blue jeans.

Meanwhile, Senator Kennedy was late for an appointment with Chancellery Minister Horst Ehmke, who stood for half an hour with increasing impatience at the steps of

Schaumburg Palace to greet him.

Together, the Kennedys showed up an hour late for a cocktail party given them by the United States Ambassador, Kenneth Rush, at his home in Bad Godesberg.

Playing no favorites, they went on to appear 90 minutes late at another reception in suburban Rolandsdeck. The host, Helmut Kohl, Minister President of Rhineland-Palatinate, said somewhat stonily: "Kennedys were always welcome here, and that is no different today."

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Walter Scheel was waiting to give the Kennedys something to eat. He waited two hours.

Topping it all off, Mrs. Kennedy showed up late for the concert.

An American diplomat attempted to soothe the Germans with the explanation that tardiness was "customary and planned" by the Kennedys as a means of increasing the anticipation of their audiences.

"But this trick didn't catch on here," wrote Walter Henkels, who enjoys a reputation as Bonn's "court scribe" in the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung. "A thin wall of alienation and distance seemed to have risen up between Senator Edward Kennedy and his wife, Joan, on the one hand and the Bonn public on the other."

Commenting on their lateness, he said: "The honorable Senator came, saw, and did not conquer."

### 'Lack of Feeling' Cited

Writing in the Süd-deutsche Zeitung, Sabine Reuter mentioned the "lack of feeling for time and protocol" of the Kennedys.

Not even Arthur Fiedler's 93-piece orchestra came away unscathed. The German press reported the remark of the Soviet press attaché and reputed intelligence operative, A. J. Bogoholov, that the pianist, Malcolm Frager, had "missed three notes" in Tchaikovsky's First Piano Concerto.

There was press criticism

also of the 40-odd American benefactors of the Boston Pops who were members of the party, and of the fact that most of the 900 paying listeners at the concert had entered with tickets priced at more than \$30—an astronomical sum for concertgoers here.

"It was only for an exclusive, financially mighty group," concluded the Bonner General Anzeiger.

There was only one German consolation prize for Senator Kennedy. Bonn's leading seeress, a gypsy named Margarete Gussantier, who calls herself Buchela, predicted: "You will be President of America, but not yet."

He is reported as having replied: "I have time."

### Mrs. Kennedy Off to Italy

LONDON, April 20 (UPI)—Mrs. Joan Kennedy left London for Rome today to shop, sightsee and attend a concert of the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

"This time I will be sitting in the audience enjoying the music," she said. Mrs. Kennedy stayed on in London after her husband, who flew to Bonn to attend her performance last week, left for Washington Sunday.

She planned to visit relatives in Florence tomorrow before returning to the United States later this week.