

Kennedy Says He Won't Back Anyone Before '72 Convention

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By WARREN WEAVER AUG 27 1971

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WASHINGTON, Aug. 26 — Senator Edward M. Kennedy said today that he did not intend to endorse any of the contenders for the Democratic Presidential nomination before the national convention opens in Miami Beach next July.

Sidestepping an invitation to take himself completely out of the race, the Massachusetts Democrat emphasized that he did not intend to use his political prestige to win the nomination for someone else, at least not until the last moment.

Senator Kennedy, answering questions from an overflow audience at the National Press Club here, said he expected to play "an active role" in Democratic affairs next year and have "an impact on

the party's direction in domestic and foreign policy affairs."

To a number of the newspapermen present, Senator Kennedy appeared willing to keep open the possibility that the party might turn to him next July in the event of a deadlocked convention, even if this flexibility kept other candidates off balance.

The Senator was asked if Senator George McGovern of South Dakota, the only announced contender for the nomination, was a "stalking horse" — that is, a temporary candidate put forward to confuse the opposition — for Mr. Kennedy.

"That's a disservice to Senator McGovern," he replied. "I would not want to be a stalking horse for anyone."

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of the United States. He replied, "I have been a courageous man in the United States Senate more outspoken than most on the issues of the day."

Senator McGovern, Mr. Kennedy continued, "should be considered" for the Presidential nomination on his own merits, "and I think he will be."

In 1968, after the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy, Mr. McGovern was a late entry into the Democratic Presidential race and received much of his support from Kennedy backers.

Senator Kennedy was asked if he was willing to adopt the political stance of Gen. William T. Sherman in 1864: "I will not accept if nominated, and will not serve if elected."

He replied that he would not seek the nomination and

added, "I have no Presidential hopes. I am not intending to present me to endorse anyone at the convention."

In his formal speech, Senator Kennedy, who had just returned from India, urged that the United States cut off arms and all economic aid to Pakistan. During the question period, he said it might prove necessary to break off diplomatic relations with Pakistan if the situation did not improve. The Pakistan Army has crushed an autonomy movement in East Pakistan, causing millions of refugees to flee to neighboring India.

Mr. Kennedy made the following responses to questions involving domestic issues:

¶ Congressional action in the narcotics area has been "inadequate", both in terms of control and funding educational and research programs.

¶ The Administration's policy on busing has been confused and he was "distressed" that President Nixon appeared to be moving away from stronger efforts at school integration by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.