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Growing Pressures on Kennedy

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CHICAGO—On the morning after the Florida primary, the politicians lounged around the swimming pools of Miami and Miami Beach and guessed, like everyone else. One of the things they guessed, as the mulled over the muddled Florida results, was that no one would be able to put together a first-ballot majority of the Democratic National Convention and that this would help Edward M. Kennedy. Mr. Kennedy, Democratic Senator from Massachusetts, brother of an assassinated President, brother of an assassinated Presidential candidate, does not agree.

"I still think the nominee will emerge from the primaries," he said in a weekend telephone interview. "We've had only two out of 23 primaries. There is a long way to go, and the Wisconsin primary has always been more representative of the Democratic party than Florida or states like that." The Wisconsin primary is April 4.

Mr. Kennedy said his position was unchanged, that he still had absolutely no intention or desire to run for President in 1972.

In his view, the Senator said, Senator Hubert H. Humphrey of Minnesota made "a good showing" in Florida, Senator Henry M. Jackson of Washington turned in "a very creditable performance" and Senator Edmund S. Muskie of Maine "had been hurt."

"But I still think Ed has the broadest support within the party," Mr. Kennedy added. "He is probably in the best position."

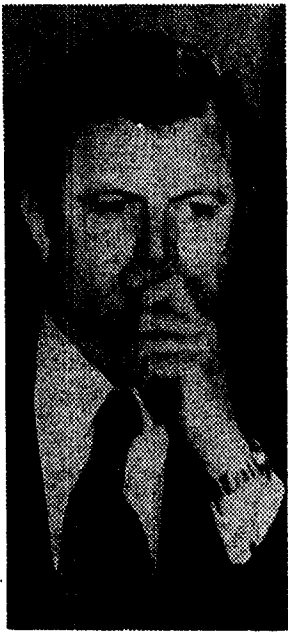
Asked whom he considered the main contenders for the nomination, Mr. Kennedy said from his home in McLean, Va., "Muskie and Humphrey, and I think George McGovern has moved into the big three in a very legitimate way."

Out of the Race

Senator Kennedy said that, beginning with Wisconsin, candidates would begin to run out of money and that the results in states such as Wisconsin, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts — all of which will hold primaries before May 1—would begin to "cut a lot of them out of the race."

He was unwilling to answer the ultimate "iffy" questions: What would happen if the race deadlocked? Would the party leaders, eager to avoid chaos, turn toward him?

But the leaders of the Democratic party, increasingly ap-



Associated Press

Senator Edward M. Kennedy

prehensive about what they consider the disorderly nominating process created by the party's reform rules, are beginning to ask whether Mr. Kennedy isn't the answer to the divisions between left and right and old and new.

If the April primaries produce no clear leader, the swing toward Mr. Kennedy or some other nonparticipant in the primaries could begin astonishingly quickly.

As most professionals now see the situation, Mr. Muskie has a chance to bounce back from his Florida embarrassment and win enough primaries and caucuses to put his nomination drive back on the road.

But if he fails to do so, if he continues to experience difficulties, it is conceivable that he would pull out of the contest. Mr. Muskie has implied as much to friends. That would leave many of his supporters, people to whom the nomination of Mr. Humphrey for a second time would constitute an admission of party bankruptcy, in need of someone else to back.

Unless Mr. McGovern or some other liberal had caught on by then, they might well begin to bring pressure on

Senator Kennedy to allow them to switch their support to him.

Among those in that group might be Gov. John J. Gilligan of Ohio and Sen. John V. Tunney of California, both of whom endorsed Mr. Muskie early and helped give his campaign the momentum that it has recently lost.

Mayor Richard J. Daley of Chicago, who is expected to control a bloc of 90 or more uncommitted delegates at the Miami Beach convention, might well join in such a move. Mr. Daley, an old ally of the Kennedy family, has never forgiven Mr. Humphrey for unflattering comments he made about Mr. Daley's conduct during the 1968 convention in Chicago and the campaign.

It is also conceivable that Mr. Muskie would win often enough in the next three months to keep his candidacy alive, but not enough to put together the majority of 1,509 votes at the convention. If Mr. Humphrey, Mr. McGovern, Mr. Muskie, Mr. Jackson, Mayor Lindsay of New York and Gov. George C. Wallace of Alabama all had blocs of votes, a deadlock could occur.

A last-minute move to Mr. Kennedy could then develop, particularly if he pulls a substantial vote in the Oregon primary on May 23, in which his name has been entered by the Secretary of State despite the Senator's statements that he is not a candidate.

Most prominent Democrats accept those statements at face value, having got over their suspicions at last. But most also think that, all disclaimers aside, circumstances could develop that would generate almost irresistible pressure on Mr. Kennedy to run.