

Ted Kennedy's Allout

By David S. Broder
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In the emotional vacuum of the 1972 campaign, a campaign in which the President seems unable to stir much public enthusiasm and his challenger arouses even less, there is one tiny pocket of passion.

It rides the chartered Lear jet in which Senator Edward M. Kennedy is campaigning. Where he goes, there are shouts and there are tears, there is full-throated laughter and there is the crush of eager crowds. Alienation seems absent when Kennedy is present.

He is traveling a great deal these days — making three- and four-day swings through the Senate and House battlegrounds, interspersed by chores for the national ticket. The last eight days of the campaign he will be on the road with and for George McGovern, whose candidacy he plugs at every stop, no matter what else he is doing.

In an autumn when the Democrats are more splintered and scattered than ever before, Kennedy is a magnet for party loyalty, offsetting the centrifugal forces that are tugging his party to pieces.

"We here in Butte," said ex-congressman Arnold Olsen, introducing Kennedy, "regard him as family," and that is the spirit he evokes at every stop.

In this unhappy season, there is no name, no face and no voice that recalls more of what gave the Democrats their pride and their

power than that of Ted Kennedy.

Aware of his role, Kennedy has made himself available, first, to the McGovern campaign, and secondly, to colleagues in the Senate and House who have asked his help.

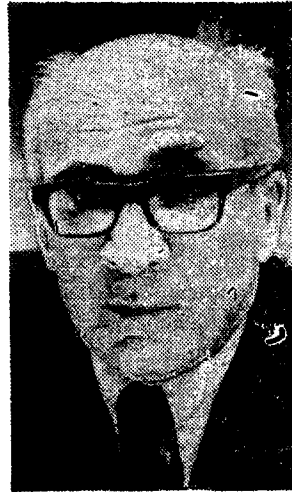
He is a superb campaigner, whether whipping up an auditorium rally with cheerleader tactics and roundhouse swings at the opposition; charming a dinner crowd, as he table-hops with the local candidates; or patiently posing for photographs with every guest at a fundraising luncheon. He works hard at his trade, accepts tough schedules without complaint and leaves the money and goodwill behind.

He knows as well as anyone that many of his efforts are in a losing cause. Whatever his private criticisms of McGovern's campaign (and he has them), his support of the nominee seems genuine.

Only a real cynic could hear Kennedy speak of the war and think he secretly wants Richard Nixon re-elected. On the other hand, while he praises McGovern copiously, he is notably more sparing in his public mention of the vice presidential candidate, his brother-in-law, Sargent Shriver.

Many of the congressional candidates he's supporting are also in uphill struggles, but Kennedy does not withhold aid from those who have a claim on family loyalty. Thus, traveling the campaign trail with him becomes, in effect, a journey back through the recent history of the party.

For example, one day in 1957 a man named Teno Roncalio walked into John Kennedy's Senate office, slapped his card down on



REP. RONCALIO
Desperate fight

the desk and announced, "I'm the Democratic chairman of Wyoming. We've got 15 votes. Ten of 'em are yours now, and I'll do what I can to get the other five."

Roncalio delivered, and television viewers saw a jubilant Ted Kennedy slapping Roncalio's back as Wyoming's votes nominated John Kennedy in 1960. Now, 12 years later, Representative Teno Roncalio is in a desperate fight for re-election and Kennedy came to Wyoming to help him.

He came here to Butte for Arnold Olsen, who is trying to regain the House seat he lost in 1970. In 1959, when Ted Kennedy started looking for support for his brother in the west, it was Olsen who guided him through Walkerville and Centerville and Dublin Gulch and The Flats.

He came to Salt Lake City for congressional candidate Wayne Owens, a young Mormon Senate aide who became Robert Kennedy's guide to Indian problems, later his 1968 Mountain States manager and, still later, Ted Kennedy's assistant as Senate Democratic whip. Owens wept unashamedly when he spoke at a dinner of what the Kennedy brothers' friendship meant to him. No one in the room was unmoved.

A trip with Kennedy makes clear that he has become, with Hubert Humphrey, the keeper of the Democratic flame, the party's last living link with its own great traditions.

But Humphrey, at 61, is at last beginning to show his age. He looked weary last weekend when he shared a platform with Kennedy in Minneapolis. His presidential races are behind him. Kennedy, at 40, still looks more boy than man and his national candidacy lies somewhere ahead.

Viewed from the perspective of his personal future, what Kennedy is doing this fall is very like what Richard Nixon did in 1964 when, as the living link to the Eisenhower past, he campaigned harder for the national Republican ticket and GOP congressional candidates than anyone else in the scene.

Like Nixon, Kennedy is storing up political due bills.

As Senator Walter F. Mondale of Minnesota, himself a future presidential prospect,

Effort

acknowledged publicly: "I have been in three campaigns for the Senate and, every time, Ted Kennedy has come here to speak on my behalf."

Those due bills can be converted into political support, if Kennedy decides to seek the presidency in 1976.