

# A Diligent Senator

Edward Moore Kennedy

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WASHINGTON, July 25—Edward Moore Kennedy made his test oratorical flight during the Easter holiday in 1962. The Kennedy family had decided that he should run for the Senate seat formerly held by his brother.

Edward Kennedy's speech was before the Young Democrats of Palm Beach, Fla., where President Kennedy was vacationing. The youngest of four Kennedy brothers was then 30 years old.

Early the next morning Pierre Salinger, the White House press secretary, called a reporter and asked him whether he had been at the meeting the night before.

"You-know-who," said Mr. Salinger, "wants to know how his brother did."

"You can tell you know-who," the reporter replied, that it was the lousiest speech I ever heard in my life—Teddy made absolutely no sense on any subject."

Five months later, Senator Kennedy met his rival in the Democratic primary, Attorney General Edward McCormack of Massachusetts, in a television debate. Those who heard it thought that Mr. McCormack devastated his opponent in logic, knowledge and style, but made one mistake. It was when he said that Edward Kennedy, the son of Joseph P. Kennedy, had been raised in pampered luxury and had never worked a day in his life.

### Won Handily

The next morning, feeling somewhat depressed, Mr. Kennedy was campaigning at a plant gate, and a worker with a broad Irish face approached him and said:

"Teddy, me boy, I hear that you have never worked a day in your life. Let me tell you, you haven't missed a thing."

Mr. Kennedy beat Mr. McCormack handily. And later, went on to victory over his Republican opponent, George

C. Lodge—whose last name, like the Kennedy name, has true power in the state of Massachusetts.

On election eve, Edward Kennedy had delivered his final speech from the tailgate of a truck in the Boston suburb of Dorchester after Mr. Lodge had spoken well. Mr. Kennedy's speech seemed awkward and obscure, and two observers began to titter. Suddenly they noticed that a six-foot young Irishman was towering over them.

"Are you laughing at Mr. Kennedy?" he asked menacingly. They assured him that it was a splendid speech.

Such was the beginning of this young man's political career. But the United States Senate is not the hustings of Massachusetts and few politicians in Washington believed that he would make much of a mark there. They were wrong.

### Rose Fast in Influence

Seldom has a Senator—Lyndon Baines Johnson was one—risen so fast to a position of influence. A man who watched him from those early years said:

"He did this not simply because he was a Kennedy. Nor because of a sudden development of unsuspected intellectual qualities—he does not have an original mind, nor a mind of large grasp.

"He did it by a slogging attention to Senatorial chores. Unlike Bobby and Jack, who were bored most of the time in the Senate and used it simply for a political base, Teddy was from the beginning a Senate man, more gregarious, more outgoing, more political in the clubhouse sense than his brothers. He immediately fitted in."

The observer went on: "But a Senator can be an accepted member of the club without notable abilities. Teddy rose because he discovered a talent for using other men's talents.

He also had a facility for studying a subject, extracting the meat of it and making the most of it on the Senate floor. In 1965, during the thick of the fight over the voting rights bill, Mr.

Kennedy offered an amendment that would outlaw poll taxes in state elections.

### First Time a Floor Manager

This was the first time he had floor-managed legislation, leading a liberal bloc in the Senate, and he almost won against a strange and powerful coalition of Southern Democrats, Republican conservatives and the Johnson Administration.

Four months later he was the floor leader of an immigration bill that abolished the 41-year-old national origins quota system, which had favored immigration from northern Europe.

In 1967, Mr. Kennedy led liberal forces in a successful fight against a bill designed to delay and dilute enforcement of a Supreme Court decision that Congressional districts within a state must be substantially equal in population.

By now, Senator Kennedy's reputation as a legislator was firmly established.

In the 90th Congress he lost his fight to revise the draft—principally by use of a lottery—to eliminate inequities. But he had the satisfaction this year of seeing President Nixon propose substantially the same reforms.

Mr. Kennedy's decision to run for the post of assistant Democratic leader, or Whip, in the Senate last January, took Senator Russell B. Long completely by surprise. The Louisianian had not expected any rivalry in the post he had held for four years, and Mr. Kennedy was only 36 years old.

But the younger man patiently made his telephone calls and gradually increased his support. He was exhibiting the careful labor that caused his older brother John to describe him as "the family's best politician." He assumed nothing, and he won.

### Three Setbacks

The Senator's rise in politics and in the Senate came despite three setbacks that might have overcome another man and driven him from public life. The first was the assassination of President Kennedy in 1963.

The second was his own brush with death in the crash of a private plane in Massa-

chusetts in 1964, the year of his campaign for a full Senate term. (He had been elected in 1962 to fill out the last two years of his brother John's term.)

Mr. Kennedy's back was broken in that crash, and he lay immobile for months, but still easily beat his opponent, Howard Whitmore, from his hospital bed. His wife, the former Joan Bennett of Bronxville, also went on the political stump for him.

Then, in 1968, his only living brother, Robert, was assassinated during his campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination. Edward Kennedy retreated alone to a sailboat, spending his days on Nantucket Sound. But then, at Worcester, he made a speech, his first after Robert Kennedy's assassination. He said:

"There is no safety in hiding. Not for me; not for any of us here today; and not for our children, who will inherit the world we make for them . . . like my brothers before me, I pick up a fallen standard."

Later his mother, Mrs. Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy, who has survived tragedy after tragedy, put it more prosaically:

### 'He's Ambitious'

"He's ambitious," she said. "He wants to do what the older boys did."

Although, all his life, Mr. Kennedy has been in the shadow of his brothers, without the wit and intellect that distinguished them, he has many assets. He is the most handsome of the Kennedys and the biggest—6 feet 2 inches tall, 200 pounds—with a perfect set of teeth, piercing, deeply set blue eyes and a kind of bandbox air.

Friends say he is a superb mimic in private; those who have worked with him in the Senate praise his industriousness and outward modesty.

He seems gentler in his manner than either of his older brothers.

Mr. Kennedy was born Feb. 22, 1932, in Brookline, Mass., and had an academic career at Harvard University and the University of Virginia Law School, from which he was graduated in 1959.

He was forced to leave Harvard when it was discovered that he had cheated on a Spanish exam, paying a friend to take it for him.

He returned to Harvard, however, and was graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in 1956.

His home outside of Washington is a 5500,000 recently completed structure in McLean, Va., where he lives with his wife and his three children—Kara, Teddy and Patrick.

Unlike Joseph Jr., the oldest and first brother to die, and John and Robert, he went into the Army instead of the Navy. He was a private first class in the infantry when he was discharged in 1953.