

# Kennedy's Big Speech In Alabama

By R. W. Apple Jr.  
New York Times

Decatur, Ala.

Senator Edward M. Kennedy flew into the Deep South yesterday to portray Governor George C. Wallace and himself as fellow warriors against those "who used the people's power to strike at the rights of the people."

With the Alabama governor in a wheelchair beside him at a Fourth of July "Spirit of America" festival, Kennedy said the administration, "masquerading as conservative, has taken the most radical steps toward dismembering the spirit of our revolution and the protections of the Constitution.

"They administered the  
Back Page Col. 6

From Page 1

nation's business through men hidden in the White House — men responsible neither to Congress nor the public — men who cannot be compelled to account for their actions or ever to disclose them.

"They have transformed public institutions into instruments of intimidation and control — turning to their own benefit not only agencies of intelligence and law enforcement, but an immense mechanism of economic sanction and reward."

And to those who "claim that the executive shall be exempt from the judgment of others," Kennedy said, quoting a Virginian of two centuries ago, George Mason: "Shall any man be above justice? Above all, shall that man be above it who can commit the most extensive injustice?"

## APPLAUSE

Kennedy's sharp attack on the Administration drew warm applause.

In his own brief talk, de-

livered standing up while braced against the podium, Wallace declared that Kennedy's family "has suffered more loss as a result of being involved in public life" than any in American History.

Referring to his own partial paralysis after an assassination attempt last year, Wallace said he is not yet able to walk but drew applause by declaring, "You can't keep a good man down."

Kennedy was made an honorary citizen of Decatur by Mayor Russell Bowlding and also received awards from two Alabama black mayors, Johnny Ford of Tuskegee and Jay Cooper of Prichard.

## CANDIDATES

The Massachusetts Democrat sounded every bit the presidential candidate as he conceded that "Governor Wallace and I have different opinions on some important issues," then proceeded to list a series of neo-populist questions on which they agree, such as high interest rates, high taxes and "the power which has been absorbed by bureaucracies ignorant of (people's) needs."

Kennedy also found common ground between himself and Wallace by denouncing the Watergate case and associated scandals.

"We don't compile lists of enemies whose careers, and lives are to be shattered because of their disagreement," he said. "We don't use the tactics of a criminal or the power of the law in order to silence those whose ideas of politics are different from ours."

## CROWD

Kennedy told the crowd of 10,000 gathered at Point Mallard Park on the Tennessee River that he stood against those who "have failed to insure black Americans equal access to education and jobs."

But, he added: "I do not come to lecture you about that racial injustice which has proven to be as deeply embedded and resistant in the cities of the North as in the counties of the South.

Indeed, southerners may know even better than others of the need for leadership to free all men, white

and black, from hatred and the consequences of hatred. We are no more entitled to oppress a man for his color than to shoot a man for his belief."

Like Kennedy's brothers John and Robert, Wallace was the target of an assassin's bullet. He survived the attack by Arthur Bremer at Laurel, Md., in 1972, but he was paralyzed from the waist down.

Yesterday, he received the Audie Murphy Patriotism Award at this north Alabama town's annual festival — a day-long jamboree with beauty, arm-wrestling and greased-pig contests that was launched in 1967 as a counter to the anti-war movement in which Kennedy came to play a significant role.

Wallace personally invited Kennedy to make the principal speech, seizing upon an idea originally suggested by Winford Turner, the assistant managing editor of the Decatur Daily. After a week's consideration, Kennedy accepted.

The appearance here fit neatly with the Massachusetts liberal's conviction, as he expressed it in a recent interview with Elizabeth Drew on Public Television, that "there are too many people and voices in this country that are trying to divide."

He has told friends that the Democratic party must find a way to bring its ideologically warring factions back together.

Wallace has come to symbolize the frustrations of southerners, ethnic northerners and other traditional Democrats who think the party has moved too far left. They gave him victory in three presidential primaries and a second place finish in six others last year.