

E.M.K.-A  
**KENNEDY REVEALS  
HIS PLANS TODAY**

— SEP 23 1974

Statement on '76 Expected  
—Senator May Drop His  
Quest for Presidency

NYTimes

By R. W. APPLE Jr.

Senator Edward M. Kennedy will disclose his political plans this morning, and there are strong indications that he has decided not to seek the Presidency in 1976.

The Massachusetts Democrat's Boston office issued a terse announcement yesterday that the Senator would hold the news conference today at 10:30 A.M. at the Parker House in Boston. The announcement did not specifically promise a statement on Mr. Kennedy's plans for 1976, but a member of the Kennedy staff said last night that that was what was planned.

None of Senator Kennedy's senior aides would hint what decision he had made, but other associates said they expected him to take himself out of the Presidential competition for the third time.

If Mr. Kennedy does withdraw, it will throw the contest for the 1976 Democratic Presidential nomination open to such competitors as Senators Walter F. Mondale of Minnesota, Lloyd M. Bentsen Jr. of Texas and Henry M. Jackson of Washington, among others.

Senator Kennedy is widely considered the prohibitive fa-

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vorite for the nomination if he wants it, although his standing in the party seems to have declined a bit lately.

Mr. Kennedy, whose brother John served as President and whose brother Robert sought the Democratic nomination in 1968, figured in the Presidential speculation in 1968 and 1972 until he declared himself out of it at the last moment.

A source well-acquainted with Mr. Kennedy's thinking said that the Senator had been leaning more and more in recent weeks toward withdrawal from the 1976 race because of political and personal reasons. The source said he considered it inconceivable that the Senator would make a statement on his plans this early—more than two years before the 1976 election—if he planned to run for the nomination.

Mr. Kennedy, who is 42 years old, has been haunted for the last five years by unresolved questions arising from his automobile accident on July 18, 1969, at Chappaquiddick Island off the Massachusetts coast, in which a passenger, Mary Jo Kopechne, drowned. The fifth anniversary of the accident prompted a number of highly unfavorable news articles.

In addition, he has had personal problems, notably the health of his son, Edward Jr., who had a leg amputated because of cancer last year, and of his wife, Joan, who has been

under treatment recently for mental stress.

**Assassination Fear**

Mr. Kennedy has also spoken privately of his family's fear that he, like his two brothers, might be assassinated if he should decide to run.

The Senator had planned to campaign this fall for a number of Democratic nominees, assess his reception and then make a decision regarding 1976 late next year.

But recently he has been under pressure from leaders of his party to decide sooner. They felt, as did a number of independent analysts, that as long as the possibility of a Kennedy candidacy existed, other candidates would be unable to raise money or develop any momentum toward the nomination.

That problem has seemed to some Democrats even more acute since the resignation of President Nixon and the accession of President Ford because now the Democrats must look toward a campaign against an incumbent, which is almost always a difficult proposition.

During a trip to California earlier this month, Senate Kennedy seem to be indicating, in subtle ways, that he did not intend to run, and he told reporters that he had advanced his timetable for deciding.

At that time, he said he would probably make a statement before the end of this year; there was no word yesterday on why he had decided to act so quickly.

Mr. Kennedy's Senate term expires in 1976, and some politicians said that his decision to make his announcement in Boston suggested that he intended to emphasize his commitment to the voters of Massachusetts and not, for the moment at any rate, to national political goals.

See "Kin of RFK Protected After Threat," WKP 27 Sep 74,  
filed RFK (A).. STC [WKP], this file 27 Sep 74.