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# Tougher Kennedy

## 'No' Is Urged

Pollster Mervin D. Field said yesterday that Senator Edward M. Kennedy should make a new effort to remove himself from the race for the Democratic Party nomination for President if he, in fact, is not a candidate.

Field, who founded the California Poll, said the feeling on the part of most of the party's leaders that Kennedy would run if drafted keeps lesser-known candidates from getting the public attention they need and deserve.

"If Senator Kennedy is really not a candidate, he should recognize his presence acts as a blanket, or retarding effect, on the party," Field said.

"Since the polls show him the most popular, the media focuses on him and that deprives the other candidates of the attention they deserve. He can't go anywhere without exuding that magic, that charm and charisma of his."

Field expressed the fear that with all of the attention going to Kennedy, the Democrats might repeat what happened in 1972 and nominate a candidate "as relatively unknown as George McGovern."

"During the 1971-72 campaign, Kennedy deprived the country of the opportunity to make the proper value judgments of other candidates and he could do it again this time," Field said.

"If there had been more and earlier press attention to McGovern and what he stands for, I doubt if he would have won the nomination."

The pollster said if Kennedy truly is not a candidate, he should "make the same kind of denial William Tecumseh Sherman made in 1864."

When Sherman succeeded Grant that year as commanding general of the army, and many tried to induce him to run for president, Sherman said, "I will not accept if nominated and will not serve if elected."

Field, whose polls show Kennedy the leading contender for the nomination, spoke at the third annual convention of the National Broadcast Editorial Association at the St. Francis Hotel.

On September 22, at a Boston press conference, Kennedy said:

"This decision (not to run) is firm, final and uncondi-

tional. There is absolutely no circumstance or event that will alter the decision. I will not accept a nomination. I will not accept a draft. I will oppose any effort to place my name in nomination in any state or at the national convention. And I will oppose any effort to promote my candidacy in any other way.

In answer to a question, Field said he personally thinks Kennedy is a candidate. And he conceded if that is true, the senator is following a good strategy in not admitting it now.