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# Kennedy Denies Altering Stand Against White House '76 Race

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WASHINGTON, May 20— Senator Edward M. Kennedy denied tonight a published report that he had changed his position about being unavailable for the Democratic Presidential nomination.

Asked in a telephone interview whether a report in the New York Daily News to the effect that he would accept a genuine draft was true, the Senator said: "No. My position is unchanging."

The Massachusetts Democrat went on to say that he could not stop speculation about his intentions.

The News reported that the Senator would also be willing to serve as a Vice-Presidential nominee on a ticket headed by Senator Hubert H. Humphrey of Minnesota. The News gave no source for its report, but said that Senator Kennedy's availability, "if indeed he would publicly choose to affirm it," would help Democrats who are looking for an alternative to former Gov. Jimmy Carter of Georgia.

The newspaper said that Mr. Kennedy's change of mind was a result of the apparent recovery of his 14-year-old son from bone cancer, the determination of his wife, Joan, to cope

with the pressure of his political life, and of his own concern that liberal legislation such as national health insurance would not get solid backing from Mr. Carter.

The News report, by James Wieghart, said that Mr. Kennedy "will not lift a finger" to advance either the possibility of a draft or the second spot on a Humphrey ticket.

BOSTON, May 20 (UPI) — A spokesman for Senator Kennedy confirmed tonight that Senator met privately in Washington today with Mr. Wieghart of The Daily News.

Ann Speakman, the spokesman, said Mr. Weighart told Mr. Kennedy he was going to run the story, and that Mr. Kennedy had insisted that he had not changed his position against accepting a draft and had not given Mr. Weighart any reason to think otherwise.

"The Senator says the story is 'pure speculation' and he cannot stop that," she said.

"We know Wieghart is one of those who would like him to run," she added. "But I don't think he [Mr. Kennedy] said, 'keep me alive, Jim.'"