

SF Chronicle

MAR 7 1977

# A New Ted Kennedy Emerges

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New York Times

Washington

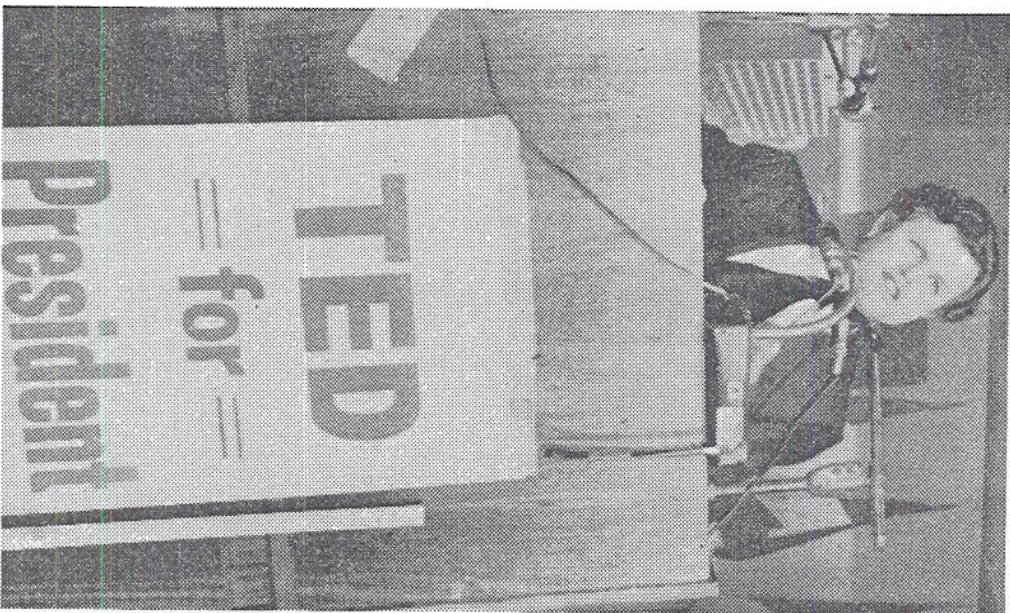
When Jimmy Carter was elected President four months ago, the pressures and turmoil that pursued Edward M. Kennedy for nearly a decade to follow his two slain brothers in pursuit of the nation's highest office seemed to disappear overnight.

Another charismatic family from another region moved into the national spotlight and another Democratic senator, Walter F. Mondale of Minnesota, became, as vice president, the party's heir apparent.

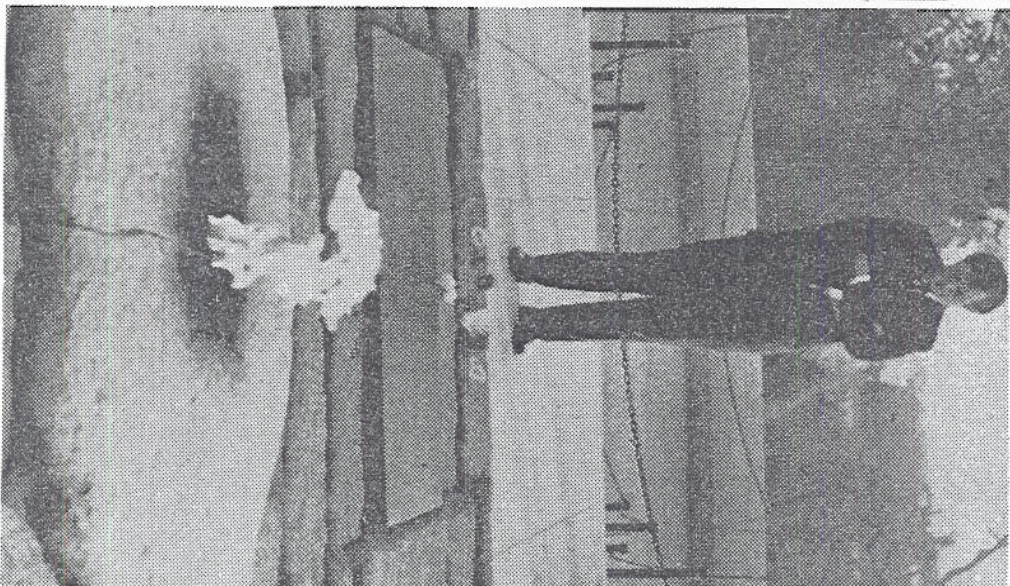
Yet the Kennedy legacy that has become as much a part of national politics refuses to fade. The senator's friends, even those who are Carter supporters, speculate that a Kennedy candidacy is somehow inevitable. A new generation of Kennedys is moving into politics, with the senator's approval and under his guidance.

Recollections of Camelot, and John F. Kennedy presidency campaigns, have endured in the media. And Kennedy implies in his public and private comments that he remains locked into — and perhaps a victim of — his family's tradition and mystique.

At 45, he is restlessly assuming new powers in the Senate and is emerging, even to critics, as one of the most effective and forceful



KENNEDY GOT A HINT AT 1974 RALLY  
With Carter in office, it's different



MOURNING AT BROTHER'S GRAVE IN 1971  
He sometimes likes to come there alone



liberals in Congress. He is seen by many as the logical alternate to become the leader of Democratic liberals, should Carter falter or become too conservative for their taste.

"My career is now in the Senate," he says emphatically. "After a period of time in the Senate you get a true sense of the issues, of the dimensions of the problems. After a period of time you have some impact in matters of public policy. That opportunity, for me, is more realized now."

Kennedy is taking over the chairmanship of the Antitrust Committee and is mentioned — because of his seniority — as potential chairman of the powerful Judiciary Committee. He has become a gutty infighter in Congress, a powerful Democratic leader and a dominant force on Capitol Hill on themes that range from national health insurance and hospital care to criminal law, lower air fares, the public financing of elections, refugees and efforts to cut down personal and corporate tax shelters and loopholes for the wealthy.

"I've just won reelection," Kennedy said in an interview. "I really look forward to the next six years, and that's really long enough for me to think about."

"Always I'm asked whether I'm running or not running," he added quietly. "Well, I've just seen in my own life that it doesn't make any great sense to plan too far into the future. Six years is probably long enough for anyone to think about."

Kennedy spoke intensely about his Senate career and his family during an early-morning breakfast interview at his home in McLean, Va., and then driving through rush-hour traffic into the capital. He is a



ROBERT KENNEDY JR.



JOSEPH KENNEDY

### Robert Kennedy's sons may get into public life

hulking, 230-pound man who seems, at once, engaging, serious and without pomp. On the topics that intrigue him, such as health care, his eyes narrow and he leans forward and he pounds his fist softly on a table, citing figures, the appalling cost of health care, the knotty problems of hospitals, the dehumanization of treatment.

"From a personal point of view, health has had an impact in terms of my family," he said. "My sister Rosemary was retarded as a child. My brother was wounded in the war, and there were complications because of that."

"Beyond this," he said, "it's a continuation of what I consider my central thrust — that is, the area of human resources. Health, as well as education, housing, jobs, the elderly — these are important to me."

"It's related to Robert Kennedy and President Kennedy," he said. "I was influenced, inspired by my brothers, I suppose. They entered public life at a time that I was evolving, at a time that was bound to have an effect on me." He emphasized: "What I'm trying to do is serve, hopefully, as a voice for the less powerful, or the least powerful groups of society, of people left out of the system."

"If you can't read the Bill of Rights, it doesn't do you very much good, does it?" he asked. "All those words enshrined in the Constitution — if you're too sick, you can't have freedom of religion, because you can't get to church. Decent housing and respect for the elderly and opportunity to work — these should be everyone's right."

As the last surviving son of

friends, however, are confident that family tradition has buoyed — or trapped — the Senator, and that a presidential candidacy is inevitable. One friend, who asked to remain unidentified, and one of President Kennedy's advisers, said, "The Kennedy name is as strong now as it ever was, even stronger. It's likely that he'll (Senator Kennedy) take over the Judiciary Committee. He already is one of the most powerful men in the Senate, and that power is going to grow. By nature of his position — and his personal ambition — he'll stay in the mainstream. Is there any way he can avoid running?"

Kennedy speaks diffidently, almost abstractly, about the Kennedy family.

"My brothers undertook the importance of challenging, and when you challenge people it brings out different emotions," he said. "It inspires in the most constructive and positive sense, it gives hope and anticipations. But it also rouses other emotions, too."

Kennedy acknowledged that Robert Kennedy's oldest son, Joseph, 24, was weighing whether or not to run for a congressional seat in Massachusetts. The prospect has stirred comment in Boston newspapers about the emergence of a new Kennedy generation.

"Joe doesn't know whether he'll run," said his uncle. "He's good. He ran my campaign last year and did a first-rate job. He's very undecided, though, about what he'll do, really unsettled. He'll decide in the next four to six months. I think this next generation is interested in public affairs."

He noted that another son of Robert F. Kennedy, Bobby, 22, as well as Robert Shriver, another nephew, who is working as a newspaper reporter, may become involved in public life.

"My father wanted his children to be interested, and my brothers and sisters want their children to be interested and involved," said Senator Kennedy. "Some may run for office. Others won't. As long as they're involved. That's the important thing."

Joseph and Rose Kennedy he has a fatalistic good humor and speaks with visible relief that the presidency is now in the hands of a Democrat, and a stranger, and that the pressure by the media, by his family, by his associates, by the voters will ease as long as Carter remains in power.

To some commentators and Democratic politicians, the Kennedy mystique is fading. The Carter administration has no Kennedy men, and the effort to appoint one — Theodore Sorensen — collapsed. The so-called cabinet-in-exile has scattered. And Kennedy's liabilities are glaring enough, none more so than Chappaquiddick, a word as powerful for him as Watergate came to be for former President Nixon.

Some of Kennedy's closest

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