

# One Will Carry On



In 1962, the brothers Kennedy . . . John, Robert and Edward . . . at the White House

By ROBERT E. THOMPSON  
Examiner Washington  
Bureau

WASHINGTON — Edward Moore Kennedy, 36, stands alone now as the bearer of all the burdens, the heartaches, and hopes of the illustrious family whose place in the history of the 20th century is second only to that of the Roosevelts.

The responsibilities thrust upon Edward Kennedy this past week would be heavy under any circumstances. But, given the tragedy that has stalked the Kennedy family over the past 25 years, they must be torturous for the senior senator from Massachusetts.

#### LONELY-BEWILDERED

Through the long vigil beside his brother's body aboard the jet from Los Angeles to New York and then within the quiet grandeur of St. Patrick's Cathedral, Edward Kennedy was a lonely and bewildered young man — possibly an angry young man.

He probably will remain lonely, bewildered and angry for a long time. But at some

point, Edward Kennedy must decide whether he will carry forward the Kennedy family's White House aspirations — aspirations that were born within Joseph Kennedy, himself, back in the days when he was Franklin D. Roosevelt's ambassador to Great Britain.

When Edward Kennedy comes to that fateful decision, he must make it without the counsel of his brother, his father or the retinue of bright, resourceful men who worked so diligently and loyally for John and Robert Kennedy.

#### KNOWS TRAGEDY

The brothers are dead. The father is incapacitated. Most of the longtime Kennedy workers have had enough of tragedy.

While still a youngster, the lad known as "Teddy" learned that his eldest brother, Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr., had been killed in World War II. A few years later, his sister, Kathleen, died in a plane crash.

As Edward Kennedy prepared to launch his own political career late in 1961, his father was felled by a terrible crippling stroke, from which he never has recovered. Within two years, his second brother, President John F. Kennedy, was cut down by an assassin's bullets.

Edward Kennedy himself was nearly killed in a 1964 plane crash near Easthampton, Mass., that took the life of the pilot and Kennedy's chief aide, Edward Moss.

#### STRUCK AGAIN

Finally, last Tuesday, horror struck again. While Edward Kennedy savored Sen. Robert F. Kennedy's primary victory in California that brother, too, was slain by a murderer's cruel shots.

In the original pattern of things within the Kennedy dynasty, Joe Jr., was to have been the politician and the president. With his passing, the mantle shifted to John Kennedy, who wore it with elegance and success through three terms in the House of Representatives, eight years in the Senate and on into the White House.

When John Kennedy died in Dallas, Robert Kennedy picked up the mantle. With it resting upon his dynamic shoulders, Robert Kennedy shifted his residence to New York, won election to the Senate, and ultimately began his ill-fated fight for the presidency.

It now is Edward Kennedy's turn. The youngest of

Joseph and Rose Kennedy's nine children now is the leader of that remarkable family and the one who must seek to fulfill its aspirations and carry its destiny.

For all his sorrow and bewilderment of the moment, Edward Kennedy suddenly has become a far more important national political figure than he was one week ago.

There is considerable discussion about a Democratic ticket of Vice President Hubert Humphrey and Edward Kennedy—and that could be the end result of the convention's deliberations in August.

If he is not a part of a successful national ticket this year, Edward Kennedy may

be tempted in 1972 to move forward in his brothers' footsteps as a candidate for President.

#### SAD AND WEARY

But Edward Kennedy must now be touched by some of the fatalism that was so innate to Robert Kennedy's personality.

There was a poignant moment in Los Angeles Thursday afternoon. After Robert Kennedy's casket was carried into the huge White House jet, Edward Kennedy walked back onto the loading platform to pick up a wreath of flowers that had fallen.

He was a sad and weary and somewhat older man. He was the last of the Kennedy men of his dramatic, explosive generation.