

Edward M. Kennedy issues statement saying it would be "impossible" for him to run for Vice President this year; says decision was made for "purely personal" reasons and is "final, firm, and not subject to further consideration."

NYTimes: "Although he cited 'purely personal' reasons for his statement, many observers believed it was also a hard-headed political choice... In the event of victory with Mr. Humphrey, he might be relegated to a secondary office for four or eight years; in the event of defeat, the Kennedy political image might be damaged. But even without waging a national campaign this year, Mr. Kennedy is certain to figure in Democratic presidential speculation for years to come."

(Filed Edward Kennedy.)