

Kennedy, Agnew Line Up -- Connally in Middle

By Patrick J. Sloyan

WASHINGTON — The end of one presidential campaign also marked the start of the next that some say will most likely pit Spiro T. Agnew against Edward M. Kennedy.

"I'm realistic enough to know that the day after this election people are going to be looking forward four years," said Kennedy, the man shattered Democrats may turn to in 1976.

For the professional politicians who are doing just that, the picture that emerges most often shows the Massachusetts senator and the Vice President in the best position at this time to win their parties' nomination.

Can Happen

But much can happen — and often does — to front-runners for the presidential nomination. For Kennedy, there is the certainty of bruising Democratic primaries that would inevitably revive the Chappaquiddick incident. For Agnew, there is the uncertainty of plans by John B. Connally, the Democrat who helped President Nixon in Texas.

Agnew told newsmen accompanying him on the campaign trail this year that he would make up his mind about seeking the presidency "in a couple of years."

It would be a surprise if Kennedy disclosed his plans even that soon.

But both men have used to their advantage the battle between President Richard Nixon and Sen. George S. McGovern.

Chief Surrogate

Agnew, acting as chief surrogate for Nixon, moved deliberately to shed a conservative image that is offensive to moderate and liberal Republicans. "I considered myself a centrist," Agnew told newsmen during his campaign travels.

Kennedy was the "good soldier," stumping long and

hard for the downhill McGovern candidacy, always predicting victory. His state was the only one McGovern carried. This will be remembered by the McGovern people four years from now if Kennedy tries to put together the traditional Democratic majority of ethnic groups and organized labor.

On the very early line, it appears that Kennedy will have a tougher fight for the Democratic nomination than Agnew will for the GOP candidacy.

Nixon's victory makes it likely that delegates at the 1976 GOP convention will be solid Nixon fans.

Four Years

Republicans during the last convention, also Nixon fans, told pollsters that Agnew was their man in 1976. He has the next four years to solidify this support by campaigning for local politicians as he has done in the past and helping GOP fund raising drives.

A big threat to Agnew could be Connally who is currently on the list of possible successors to Melvin Laird as secretary of defense. So far, however, Connally has indicated he plans to stay a Democrat and out of the GOP administration.

The best hope for possible GOP challengers such as Sens. Charles Percy, Ill., and Edward Brooke, Mass. — both big winners Tuesday — is to draw Agnew into some of the 23 or more presidential primaries of 1976.

Brooke, the only black senator, was speaking for party liberals who want to stop Agnew as the "heir apparent," when he said he was giving "serious

thought" to making the presidential race himself.

Nixon's record in the coming four years and personal desire for the kind of successor he wants will also affect Agnew's chances.

But both Agnew and Kennedy have learned the importance of primaries this year. Sen. Edmund Muskie fizzled as the frontrunner while McGovern emerged with victories based on plans carefully laid four years before. It was in the California primary that Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey, attacking McGovern defense and welfare policies, made the South Dakota senator appear to be a "far out" politician.

Magic Name

"The whole Chappaquiddick story has never been told," said one Nixon political aide who was ready to tell it if Kennedy and not McGovern was the candidate this year.

Chances are, it will probably be a Democrat who would remind the nation of the drowning of Mary Jo Kopechne if Kennedy seeks the presidency in 1976. But the magic of the Kennedy name so far has permitted him to overcome a tragedy that would have ended most other political careers.

Paralysis and lingering pain from an assassin's bullet is the main barrier to Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace. If Wallace does recover sufficiently, he has in-

dicated he would again seek the Democratic party nomination for himself in 1976, but on a coast-to-coast basis.

Most are taking Muskie and Humphrey at their words that their presidential ambitions have ended. Humphrey is mentioning other possibilities such as Sen. Walter F. Mondale, a big winner in Minnesota Tuesday.

There are similar GOP possibilities such as Sens. Bill Brock, of Tennessee, and Sen. Mark O. Hatfield, of Oregon.

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In the turbulent days following the death of Mary Jo Kopechne in Senator Ted Kennedy's automobile, [M.R.] Sullivan was on the telephone to key reporters, urging them to keep the pressure on Kennedy. At that time, Kennedy appeared to be the most likely Democrat to challenge President Nixon in 1972.

Jack Anderson, New Orleans States-Item,
22 Aug 72, filed Nix Ad

As fall turned to winter [1971], [Howard L. Hunt and Gordon Liddy] began carefully assembling potentially damaging dossiers on any and all possible Democratic Presidential candidates - and Hunt in particular launched a fresh investigation into Sen. Edward Kennedy's tragic automobile accident at Chappaquiddick.

Newsweek, 18 Sep 72, filed Demo bugging