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Friends Urge Ted to Quit Politics

New Orleans

The Archbishop of New Orleans said that close friends of the Kennedy family are asking Senator Edward M. Kennedy, the only surviving brother, to drop out of national politics.

In an interview with the New Orleans Times-Picayune, Archbishop Philip M. Hannan said the natural reaction is for family and friends to discourage the Massachusetts senator from pursuing a career in politics.

The prelate, a friend of the Kennedys, presided at graveside services for the assassinated Senator Robert F. Kennedy at Arlington National Cemetery Saturday night.

The archbishop said he could not predict what Edward Kennedy's decision will be.

"Teddy now has an assuredness and a sense of mission that he could not have had before the tragedies," Archbishop Hannan said. "Teddy is a completely different character from his brothers, and if he does decide to follow the Kennedy tradition, he will have his own individual programs.

He added that "we must all bear in mind that Teddy is the final legate of a great American political tradition."

And it must also be considered that the 36-year-old Kennedy is the only adult son of a large family with many fatherless children, he said.

Associated Press