

8 KENNEDY-CIVIL RIGHTS (400)

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WASHINGTON, JULY 7 (AP)-ATTY. GEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY EXPRESSED PLEASURE AT WHAT HE DESCRIBED TODAY AS NATIONWIDE COMPLIANCE WITH THE NEW CIVIL RIGHTS LAW. HE ATTRIBUTED IT TO PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S LEADERSHIP.

SPEAKING OF THE PRESIDENT, KENNEDY, WHO IS CHARGED WITH SUPERVISING ENFORCEMENT OF THE LAW, SAID:

"HE HAS SPOKEN OUT. THERE IS CONFIDENCE IN HIM AND CONFIDENCE IN HIS JUDGMENT, AND THE PEOPLE HAVE FOLLOWED HIM."

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, ADDRESSING A CONFERENCE OF U.S. ATTORNEYS HERE, REITERATED ADMINISTRATION POLICY THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL BECOME INVOLVED IN ENFORCING THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT ONLY WHEN IT IS DEEMED NECESSARY.

KENNEDY WENT FROM THAT SESSION TO AN ENTHUSIASTIC WELCOME FROM MORE THAN 5,000 YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN WORKING AS SUMMER INTERNS FOR THE GOVERNMENT. THEIR QUESTIONS RAISED ONCE AGAIN THE TOPIC OF HIS UNCHARTED FUTURE.

ASKED ABOUT A RECENT ACCOUNT OF AN INTERVIEW BY A NATIONAL NEWS MAGAZINE, KENNEDY SAID "THE NEWSWEEK ARTICLE DOES NOT CORRECTLY PORTRAY MY FEELINGS IN CONNECTION WITH THIS MATTER," (OF HIS FUTURE).

THE ARTICLE INTIMATED THAT KENNEDY WOULD LIKE TO BE JOHNSON'S VICE PRESIDENTIAL RUNNING MATE THIS YEAR BUT THAT HE ALSO WOULD BE INTERESTED IN BEING SECRETARY OF STATE OR DEFENSE, OR AMBASSADOR TO RUSSIA. KENNEDY TOLD HIS AUDIENCE TODAY HE HAS NO DESIGNS ON ANYTHING, ANYWHERE.

"I WOULD RATHER WORK FOR THE GOVERNMENT THAN DO ANYTHING ELSE," HE SAID. "I CAN'T SEE MYSELF IN BUSINESS, AND I DON'T THINK I'LL GO BACK TO LAW.

"BUT HOW THIS GOING TO BE RESOLVED, I DON'T KNOW. EVERY TIME I START THINKING ABOUT IT, I REALIZE I DON'T HAVE TO START THINKING ABOUT IT YET SO I PUT IT OFF AGAIN."

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AS FOR THE VICE PRESIDENCY, KENNEDY SAID, "I HAVEN'T HAD TO MAKE THAT DECISION, SO I HAVEN'T. THE ONLY DECISION I'VE MADE IS TO STAY ON AS ATTORNEY GENERAL THROUGH THIS YEAR--UNTIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON CHOOSES HIS NEW CABINET."

ONE STUDENT ASKED KENNEDY HOW HIS ROLE AS ATTORNEY GENERAL HAD CHANGED SINCE THE ASSASSINATION OF HIS BROTHER, PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY.

"WELL, I'M INVOLVED IN THE SAME MATTERS," HE REPLIED SLOWLY. "OBVIOUSLY, AS BROTHERS, HAVING WORKED TOGETHER A LONG TIME, WE TALKED TOGETHER CONTINUOUSLY DURING THE DAY. I'M INVOLVED IN THE SAME MATTERS NOW BUT..."

KENNEDY'S VOICE TRAILED OFF AND THEN HE SAID, "THIS IS RATHER DIFFICULT...CAN WE GO ON?"

HIS MOOD LIGHTENED WHEN HE WAS ASKED, AS A DEMOCRAT, WHOM HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE NOMINATED BY THE REPUBLICANS FOR THE PRESIDENCY.

"I THINK THE REPUBLICAN PARTY IS DOING SO DAMN WELL I DON'T WANT TO INTERFERE WITH THEM," HE SAID.

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