

3/Jan 68

# KENNEDY REPEATS: NO JOHNSON FIGHT

Sur  
Ove  
An

## Asserts He Won't Challenge President for Nomination

By E. W. KENWORTHY

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30 — Senator Robert F. Kennedy said today that he would not oppose the renomination of President Johnson "under any foreseeable circumstances."

In recent months the New York Democrat has said on several occasions that he expected President Johnson to be renominated and that he expected to support him.

Nevertheless, there has been a flurry of reports recently that Senator Kennedy was approaching a decision, if he had not already privately reached it, to contest Mr. Johnson's renomination.

In part these reports were based on the "inside" talk circulating at the campaign conference of the Democratic State Central Committee in Fresno, Calif., three weeks ago.

It was said that Jesse M. Unruh, speaker of the Assembly, who had been publicly advocating that Mr. Kennedy challenge the President, was making private bets that he would do so. Mr. Unruh is an old political ally of the Kennedy family.

### Will Speak Out on Issues

However, this morning Senator Kennedy told a group of reporters breakfasting with him:

"I have told friends and supporters who are urging me to run that I would not oppose Lyndon Johnson under any foreseeable circumstances."

Mr. Kennedy went on to say that he would, of course, continue to speak out on the issues where he had differences with the President, not simply on the Vietnam war but also on the problems besetting the cities.

In reiterating his position, Senator Kennedy left open the possibility that unforeseeable circumstances might arise to change his mind. But he did not specify what those circumstances might be. One highly unlikely possibility is that the President might decide not to run.

PR  
Richa

Speculation that Senator Kennedy would finally decide to challenge the President in some primaries has been based on two considerations, one eminently practical and the other idealistic. Both have figured in the "he should-he shouldn't" argument going on among his friends and advisers.

### Future a Factor

The first consideration is Mr. Kennedy's political future, and it is based on the assumption—which is generally agreed on by advisers who want him to run and those who don't—that he cannot take the nomination away from Mr. Johnson even if he wins several primaries.

Those who argue against the challenge say that it would divide the party, probably bring about the defeat of many Democratic Senators who agree with him on Vietnam, possibly result in the election of a Republican President, and certainly make impossible his nomination in 1972.

Furthermore, they contend that the inevitable failure of his challenge would also impair the effectiveness of future criticism of the Administration's Vietnam policy by himself and other Senators agreeing with him.

Among those arguing strongly against his taking the risk is Theodore Sorensen, special counsel to President Kennedy.

The second consideration is what the Senator owes to his conscience and to those—and particularly the young people—who share his view that the war is wrong, is dangerously dividing the nation and separating it from its allies, and is diverting funds, energies and minds from the urban problems.

inst  
hav  
or  
N  
the  
Gov  
par  
his  
rep  
tain  
dat  
to  
C  
poli  
prot  
acti  
app  
Gov  
out  
chan  
In  
ler  
lead  
Coa  
New  
dire  
bas  
his  
wri  
pri  
bat  
no  
Be  
Ri  
to  
an  
of  
co  
by  
to  
ca  
la  
vc  
lic  
pe  
lo  
th  
O  
lo  
Ca  
th

SH

Con  
shir  
in  
Mic