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WASHINGTON Kennedy Profile take 2 A137WX years 330

As attorney general in his brother's cabinet, Robert was considered the second most powerful man in Washington, taking part in such vital decision-making as the Cuban missile crisis, the Bay of Pigs invasion and the Dominican crisis.

President Kennedy answered critics of brother Bobby's appointment with: "I can't see that it's wrong to give him a little legal experience before he goes out to practice law." Robert's strong suit as attorney general was civil rights enforcement.

When John Kennedy was shot, Robert was one the President's widow leaned on. Soon after Robert's relationships with John's successor-Lyndon B. Johnson-began to worsen. It is a mutual dislike that is widely known and little denied.

Johnson effectively eliminated Robert Kennedy from the vice presidential race in 1964 by announcing he was removing all cabinet members from consideration.

Soon after, Kennedy resigned as a Massachusetts delegate to the Democratic National Convention, leased a home in New York and ran for senator from New York.

He said:

"I like to be involved in politics. I like to be involved in government."

And to charges that he was a carpetbagger for switching residence, Kennedy replied: "Isn't the basic question 'who can best represent the State of New York?'"

As senator he has been interested in social legislation, making forays into poverty areas, meeting with civil rights leaders. He has been one of the most severe critics of Johnson's Vietnam policies.

The charges of ruthlessness and opportunism came up again this year when he jumped into the race for the Democratic presidential nomination after watching to see how Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy of Minnesota came out in the New Hampshire primary. His views on Vietnam nearly coincide with McCarthy's.

When he lost last week's primary in Oregon to McCarthy, Kennedy-obviously stung-said for the first time he'd support the party's nominee and accepted an offer to debate McCarthy.

"I am not the same candidate I was before Oregon and I don't claim that I am," he said. "However, many presidential nominees lost a primary and won both the nomination and the election."

He pointed to Tuesday's California primary as the ultimate test. He won it and at the celebration afterward flashed the victory sign and said "on to Chicago and let's win there."

Moments later he lay bleeding in a kitchen corridor, shot twice.

CZ102Caed June 5

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Kennedy Tragedies correction

WASHINGTON Take 2 Kennedy Tragedies A092WX to fix relationship sub for last graf: tragedy.

Joan Patricia Skakel, her widowed sister-in-law, died in May 1967 when a particle of meat lodged in her throat. Mrs. Skakel's husband-Ethel's brother-was killed in a plane crash in 1966.

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