

# Gene's Youth Army In Tears for Bobby

By SAM BLUMENFELD

They wanted to beat Kennedy — but not like that.

They were the 1200 McCarthy supporters who gathered at 8 p.m. in the Merchandise Mart's big ballroom to cheer for the man whose ideas they had bought.

They were young, mostly between 18 and 23, and half of them sat on the floor while the others stood to watch the big television sets that had been set up in the far corners of the ballroom.

The crowd got off to a jubilant, thunderous start when the early returns showed their candidate with 45 percent against Kennedy's 41 percent on all three screens of the major networks.

Then CBS came out with its first projected 46 percent to 40 percent Kennedy victory. The loud groan set up fused weirdly with the simultaneous cheers that came from the other end of the room where NBC again reported McCarthy with a 5 percent edge.

## TO FIGHT ON

As the evening wore on and the McCarthy lead narrowed, many started admitting things looked bad. But it didn't appear to dampen their spirits one whit.

"We may lose this elec-

tion," admitted G. W. "Joe" Holsinger, Northern California chairman for McCarthy. "But we'll carry this fight right into the Chicago convention."

And later the crowd again went wild when McCarthy appeared on the TV screen — and although not conceding defeat in the election — said to his supporters: "Go out and have a pleasant time tonight. We have just begun to fight."



Alone in St. Francis Xavier Church at Hyannis, Mass., Mrs. Rose Kennedy prays for her injured son.

—UPI Photo

## WEEPING

Some started to drift out and they looked more like they had won than lost.

Those who remained chatted noisily and in good spirits as they watched the screens.

And then — the news that Kennedy had been shot. There was dead silence. Everyone stood around in shock. Several persons started to weep softly. For a long time no one spoke.

They had been against Kennedy.

And now they were weeping for him.

Then they left the ballroom quietly in small groups.