

# Bobby Has Big Lead In Primary

By Michael Harris

Senator Robert F. Kennedy swept into a commanding lead over Senator Eugene J. McCarthy only moments before he was shot leaving the podium at a ballroom of the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles early today.

The tragedy came after a day of double triumph for the young New York Senator—a smashing victory first in South Dakota and then a California triumph after his campaign had appeared to be sagging.

But with a comeback in California, Kennedy prompt-

ly challenged Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey to meet him "in dialogue or debate" to discuss in what direction the country should go.

## SPEECH

He spoke of his distress at the violence and ill feeling that had marred the United States for the last few years.

"We are a great country, an unselfish country and a compassionate country," Kennedy said. "I intend to make that the basis of my campaign."

With 7384 of the State's 21,301 precincts counted — about 35 per cent of the vote — the Democratic presidential vote was:

Kennedy 419,966 (45 per cent)

McCarthy 394,419 (42 per cent)

Lynch 116,966 (13 per cent)

Both the lead and Kennedy's percentage were expected to grow as counting continued — according to the Columbia Broadcasting System, to 50 per cent or more for Kennedy.

In the Republican primary, Governor Ronald Reagan, running unopposed as a favorite son, got 100 per cent of his party's presidential primary vote. With 27 per cent of the Republican ballots counted, Reagan had 316,164 votes.

Prior to the shooting, McCarthy had acknowledged he had lost a hard-fought campaign in California.

The Minnesota Senator said he would not quit the campaign that he had promised to wage to the finish. He told his followers he would

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More election news on  
Pages 2, 3, 4, 15A, 15B

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