

Kennedy Says President Has Failed To Carry Out 'Promise' of America

By MARJORIE HUNTER

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Senator Edward M. Kennedy, sounding very much like the Presidential candidate that he insists he is not, accused the Nixon Administration tonight of failing to carry out "the bright promise of the American nation."

In a speech reminiscent of those delivered more than a decade ago by his brother, President Kennedy, the Massachusetts Democrat told the Washington Press Club:

"Our present difficulties do not flow, I think, so much from the fact that people mistrust their government, as from the fact that the government so obviously mistrusts the people."

Senator Kennedy called for new leadership in the White House, but he did not endorse any of the Democratic candidates now seeking the Presidency.

Instead, he detailed what he viewed as the failings of the Nixon Administration in foreign and domestic policies. These policies, he said, have contributed to a crisis of the national spirit.

'We Need Direction'

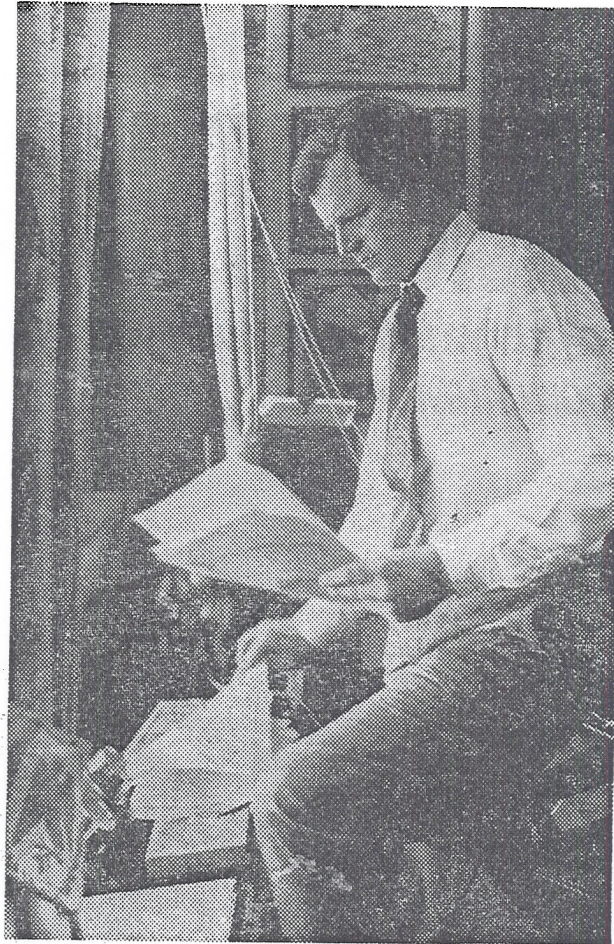
"The crisis," he said, "is not the creation of a single man, nor was it manufactured by the Administration now in power. But if our current difficulties run deeper than any single Administration, they also show how much we need direction from the top."

Senator Kennedy conceded that the nation's involvement in Vietnam had been reduced during the Nixon Administration. But he called for a prompt end to all military involvement in Vietnam.

He also said that the President "deserves great credit for his new approach to China," but he scored the Administration's handling of the India-Pakistan conflict.

"Intoxicated by the acclaim at home for the magnificent new policy toward China, in debt to Pakistan for her assistance in launching the new policy, the Administration shut its eyes to months of brutality and depression in Bangladesh, while India staggered under the burden of millions of refugees crossing her border to escape the killing," the Senator said.

Senator Kennedy's severest



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Senator Edward M. Kennedy going over speech in office

criticism of the Administration entered on domestic issues. It is on the domestic front, he said, that the nation must "struggle to recapture" its sense of national purpose and inspiration.

'Great Issues' Cited

Senator Kennedy listed what he called the "great issues" facing the nation this year:

¶The economy. He said that the Administration had met the problem of unemployment "with excuses instead of programs. All the people want is jobs, but they are ignored and unemployed."

¶The cities. He said that some believed that because the cities were not burning, their problems could be ignored. He accused the Administration of turning its back on inner city housing, traffic congestion, decaying parks and on these seeking "food and clothing."

¶Welfare. While agreeing

with the Administration that welfare reform was needed, the Senator scored the "must work" provision of the President's proposed family assistance plan as but another instance of trying "to push the poor around."

Health insurance. The Senator called for a broad program of national health insurance to provide health care "for all our citizens, not just an expensive privilege for the few."

¶Science. The Senator called for a massive redirection of current scientific energies from defense and space into health, education, crime and poverty, transportation and drug control.

On race problems, the Senator accused President Nixon of breaking the chain of racial advancements for the blacks. "Black America," he said, "lies becalmed today, half way between hope and desperation."