

Kennedy Given Huge Ovation at Valley State

12,000 Hear Candidate Assail 'False Pride' of U.S. in Vietnam Conflict

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Assailing the "false pride" that he said is killing Americans and Vietnamese, Sen. Robert F. Kennedy Monday evoked cheers and thundering applause as he addressed a crowd of about 12,000 at San Fernando Valley State College.

He evoked the same response when he visited Watts after his address at the state college.

Police said 12,000 students and older citizens jammed the Valley State campus to see Kennedy.

Some of the crowd stood on rooftops to hear the New York senator on the final day of his California tour to win California's delegate votes in the June 4 primary for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Student Jeers Kennedy

Before Kennedy spoke, he was jeered by one student who shouted: "Where were you in New Hampshire?"

The reference was to Kennedy's entry into the race after Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy of Minnesota had won a large vote in New Hampshire's primary.

Kennedy, McCarthy and President Johnson, the latter by proxy through a delegation headed by Atty. Gen. Thomas C. Lynch, now are fighting for California's votes at the Democratic National Convention.

Mingled with the pro-Kennedy signs were some that said "Kennedy for Dogcatcher," "SOB"—meaning "Students Opposing Bobby"—and "Are You Going to Open the Archives?"

Commission Archives Cited

The last referred to the archives of the Warren Commission, which investigated the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Also displayed were a couple of signs plugging the Republican presidential candidacy of former Vice President Richard M. Nixon.

Kennedy took cognizance of these, saying: "I'm very impressed there are three people for Richard Nixon."

In his speech, Kennedy made it clear he supports the students throughout the world who have staged sit-ins and boycotted classes in support of their demands for free speech and a voice in how they are educated.

He lashed at the nation's pride in
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its Gross National Product because, he said, it includes napalm and nuclear warheads and the armored vehicles police are buying an anticipation of urban riots.

And the senator hit at television programs that he charged "glorify violence" in order to sell toys to children.

Kennedy's arrival at the campus was marked by a virtual sea of students who ran to his car and slowed his progress to an outdoor platform.

In a question period after his formal speech, Kennedy was told several times by shouting students, "Open the archives."

He seemed at first to ignore the query, then gave up and said, "Your manners overwhelm me, go ahead, ask your question."

Then he told the students that the archives will be opened "at the appropriate time," but that:

"If I became President I would not reopen the Warren report (apparently referring to the investigation that led to the report).

"Nobody is more interested than I in knowing who was responsible for the death of President Kennedy."

"I would not reopen the Warren Commission report. I have seen everything that's in there. I stand by the Warren Commission report."

Asked whether he favored rapid deescalation of what a student called the U.S. role as world policeman engaging in military and political interference in foreign nations, Kennedy responded:

"It's easy to say 'yes' to that but we have a responsibility to other countries."

Discussing those who are being jailed for refusing to serve in the Armed Forces because they have a moral objection to the war, Kennedy said that a genuine conscientious objector should not go to jail.

But, he added, if a person is morally against a war he has to take his chances on suffering the legal consequences of his action.

He said his own attitude is not a very popular one, "but it happens to be the way I feel about it" and "if I were drafted I would go."

He Visits Watts

From San Fernando Valley State, Kennedy went to visit Watts.

Police estimated 4,000 Negroes swarmed around his open convertible as his motorcade traveled along E. 103rd St.

It was a screaming, cheering, pawing mob scene similar to those nearly everywhere Kennedy visited in California.

"I want to replace the system of welfare hand-outs," he shouted to the crowd from a platform set up in front of the old Frederick Douglass Theater at 103rd and Graham Ave. The building is the new home of the Watts Writers Workshop founded after the 1965 riot by Budd Schulberg.

Jabbing the air with his left forefinger and holding in his right hand a microphone that didn't work, Kennedy said:

"I want violence and hatred replaced by love and justice . . . I want to end the division that exists between black and white."

When he asked the crowd if it wanted Mr. Johnson or Nixon for President, there were boos. When he asked it about Kennedy, there were cheers.

Among those in the crowd were members of the New Image, a recently formed group of 2,000 Negro professional men who made their debut on the political scene Sunday when Kennedy spoke at the Greek Theatre.

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Robert Owens, 8310 S. Western Ave., a cofounder of the group, said it organized eight months ago after becoming "disenchanted with the establishment."

He said the group supports Kennedy because "he is offering us what we need."

There were a number of New Image placards in the crowd Monday, and many cars in the vicinity had New Image bumper stickers.

There were no uniformed policemen on hand although newsmen spotted several Negro detectives in civilian clothing. About 75 members of the Sons of Watts, a self-help group of Negro youths wearing burgundy jackets, tried to maintain crowd control — a difficult task.

As he did Sunday, Kennedy did not name President Johnson in his earlier speech to the students, but by indirection accused Mr. Johnson of continuing the war in Vietnam because of "false pride."

Favors Free Speech

Declaring that he stands with the students of the world's universities who are demanding the right to free speech and assembly and a voice in their own education, Kennedy said that the youth of eastern Europe and the Soviet Union have risked their liberty.

"How ironic it is that at the very time our own example spreads the seeds of liberty abroad, some here at home point to danger in the fullest exercise of that liberty," the senator said.

"They decry the growth of dissent. They urge that 'the time has come to unite, to support our leaders, our government.' And they ask, 'Which side are you on?'"

Kennedy said that he stands "with the spirit of youth, and that's where I think America should stand—and that is why I run for President."

He asked: "What will this spirit do for America?"

"It will mean a new effort to end the conflict in Vietnam, and to begin the journey back to peace.

"It will recognize with Sophocles that 'all men make mistakes, but a good

man yields when he knows his course is wrong, and repairs the error. The only sin is pride.'

"A new leadership will not risk more and more lives of Americans and Vietnamese alike, in the name of false pride."

The spirit of which he spoke, he said, means:

"A new leadership will understand that our purpose as a nation is not fulfilled by the mere accumulation of wealth. We shall achieve national satisfaction from an impulse more noble and more enduring than the growth of our Gross National Product."

Today, he said, our Gross National Product of more than \$800 billion not only counts air pollution and cigaret advertising "and ambulances to clear our highways of carnage." It also:

"Counts special locks for our doors and jails for the people who break them. It counts the destruction of the redwoods and the loss of natural wonders to chaotic sprawl.

"It counts napalm and nuclear warheads, and armored cars for the police to fight riots in our cities."

Why Are We Proud?

The GNP does not, Kennedy continued, "include the beauty of our poetry, the strength of our marriages, the intelligence of our public debate or the integrity of our public officials. It measures neither our wit nor our courage, neither our wisdom nor

our learning, neither our compassion nor our devotion to country.

"It measures everything, in short, except that which makes life worthwhile. And it can tell us everything about America—except why we are proud to be Americans."

It was Kennedy's third day of campaigning in California. Immediately

after the Watts visit he headed for the Pacific Northwest in quest of more support.

Kennedy was reported to have been very pleased by the outpouring of support evidenced for him here Sunday.

About 300 persons attended a private reception Sunday night at Sportsmen's Lodge on Ventura Blvd. at which a substanti-

al sum was understood to have been raised for his California campaign to capture 172 delegate votes at the Chicago Democratic National Convention in August.