

# KENNEDY CHEERED BY WATTS NEGROES

Asks Help in Drive to Find 'Jobs for All Our People'

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LOS ANGELES, March 25— Senator Robert F. Kennedy stood on a street corner in the heart of Watts today and looked out at a sea of black faces.

"How many of you want the kind of leadership you have had for the last two years?" he shouted. A chorus of boos arose from the crowd.

"How many of you would like to have Richard Nixon as President?"

A louder chorus of boos.

"How many of you will help me get elected President?" A roar went up from the crowd.

"Then give me your help," he said. "Give me your hand. I need your help."

With that, he was carried back to his automobile as hundreds of black hands reached to touch him, as thousands of white hands have done during his frenzied tour of California for the last two days.

### Excitement Is High

The New York Senator drew a crowd of perhaps 2,000 to the streetcorner rally, far smaller than the throngs he had attracted yesterday in the Mexican-American section of the city, at the Greek Theater in Hollywood, and, earlier today, at San Fernando State College.

But the excitement his presence has generated elsewhere on his Presidential campaign was present. As he rode down the flat dingy streets of Watts in shirtsleeves in an open car, his hair blowing in the wind, Negro children crawled out of the windows and loped out to see him.

When he reached the corner of 103d Street and Graham Avenue, where the crowd was waiting, he climbed atop a platform and started to speak over a public address system. But the microphones would not work, so he grabbed a portable microphone, climbed on a chair, and said:

"I want to find jobs for all our people. I want to find jobs for the black people of Watts and the white people of eastern Kentucky. I want prejudice and hatred and discrimination to stop, and I need your help. I want a reconciliation of blacks and whites in the United States."

He drew applause when he said:

"I pledge to end the war in Vietnam. I pledge to you that when a young man of Watts goes to Vietnam and fights for his country and comes back home he will find equality and justice."

Earlier this morning, Senator Kennedy addressed about 10,

000 students at San Fernando Valley State College. Standing in the warm sunlight in a plaza in the center of the college, Mr. Kennedy reminded the students that Secretary of State Dean Rusk was recently said to have told reporters at an off-the-record briefing that criticism of the Administration's Vietnam policy had reached a point where, "the question is, whose side are you on?"

Senator Kennedy then said, "I am on the side of those who are not afraid to recognize past error, who refuse to blindly pursue bankrupt policies which will rend us from our friends and drain us of our treasure, in the fruitless

pursuit of illusions long since shattered.

"I'm on the side of those who seek to reconcile our divisions in this great nation.

"I'm on the side of those who seek more than blind dissent, who respect the opinions of others.

"I'm on the side of those who do not shout down others; but who listen, challenge and then propose a better policy for America."

In a question period that followed, Senator Kennedy was asked if he approved of young men refusing to obey a military draft.

"I think he would have to face the consequences," Sena-

tor Kennedy said. "If I were to be called up, I would go. Each person has to examine his own conscience and do what he thinks is right."