

Kennedy Hits Nixon On POWs

LOS ANGELES -- (AP) -- Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, asking "how long will our prisoners rot in Hanoi?" said last night that Richard Nixon's greatest failure as President is not ending the war in Vietnam.

Nixon's secret negotiations failed because his peace offer was "the same old one-sided" proposal that the Communist rejected when then-President Johnson tried it in 1965, Kennedy told a Democratic Fund Raising dinner.

"Does anyone seriously believe that North Vietnam will ever release our prisoners until we stop the bombing, until we stop the killing of innocent men and women and children in Indochina?" he asked.

On other issues, Kennedy said:

Race—"They are fanning the flames of racial hate again with a new round of passionate appeals to prejudice on the issue of busing in the schools."

Economy—"We've got a sick economy . . . no one's job is safe as long as this administration is in power."

Welfare—"In 1969, the administration had a program of welfare reform, the only decent social program they ever offered. But by 1972, they had let members of their own party scuttle it in Congress."

Crime—"To hide the bad results on violent crime, the administration has begun to doctor the FBI reports . . . The President and the man he wants to be the new attorney general are all for wiretapping and mass arrests and preventive detention."