

Nixon's Prediction: Kennedy Will Win

Richard M. Nixon has privately told friends the winner of the 1976 presidential election will not be his handpicked successor, Gerald R. Ford, but instead that habitual non-candidate, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy.

Nixon, who never could resist the temptation to forecast elections, is passing on his eyebrow-raising forecast to close friends—including Pepsi-Cola magnate Donald Kendall, who has widely relayed Nixon's words in Washington and New York.

Nixon flatly predicts President Ford will not be elected in 1976. That may indicate lack of gratitude for the President whose blanket pardon protected Nixon from criminal charges, but it certainly shows his longtime low esteem for Mr. Ford's political talents.

More surprising is Nixon's prediction of

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Kennedy, whose disclaimer of candidacy is now widely accepted by Democrats. That guess, however, may reflect the political awe in which Nixon has held the Kennedys since losing to John F. Kennedy in 1960. He was apprehensive in 1968 that Robert F. Kennedy might be nominated and worried about Teddy Kennedy being drafted in 1972.

Contrary to claims that New York Mayor Abe Beame was pressured into greeting President Anwar Sadat of Egypt the mayor sought the meeting and reneged under political pressure.

Apart from reflecting the pressures afflicting the incident shows in Egyptian relations by cooling tensions.