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Adv 6 p.m. EDT Mon July 26

Kennedy 330

NEW YORK AP - Sen. Edward M. Kennedy says the possibility of an assassination attempt was the "most crushing" consideration in deciding not to seek the 1972 Democratic presidential nomination. Look magazine reports in its Aug. 10 issue.

The magazine quotes the Massachusetts senator as saying, "Even if I were willing to reach out for this opportunity, personal pressure are overriding—subjecting my family to fears over my safety . . . the tensions on my mother."

Kennedy has repeatedly denied that he will seek the nomination, but he is commonly included among the Democratic possibilities.

"I try not to think about the presidency," he told Warren Rogers in an interview. "But people like you keep bringing it up. I don't discuss it with my family. We just don't talk about it."

Kennedy, 39, added, however, "Then, too, maybe I would like to do it later on, in a different climate, more on my own."

He went on to acknowledge his awareness of "pressures felt within myself as well as from others" to carry on in the "tradition" of his late brothers—President John F. Kennedy and Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, who were both killed by assassins.

Citing pressures . . . that I have the best chance of putting together a coalition that would succeed," he continued:

But on the other side are the overriding personal considerations. My family and I take seriously my responsibility to my brothers' children as well as my own and the tragedies—my brothers' . . . the death at Chappaquiddick—anybody would be enormously affected by such experiences."

Kennedy said, "Ultimately, it is within this perspective that a final decision will be made."

The senator, who was elected to his second term in 1970, added, "I feel it in my gut that it's the wrong time, that it's too early."

Kennedy said, "My brother Jack came along at a time suited to his exciting style, when the people were ready to move out again after eight quiet years."

The mood may be changing again. I think it is, and I'm not sure that President Nixon realizes that.

But what I don't know is whether hhe national mood can swing back in so short a time, only four years, to the kind of leadership identified with the Kennedys."

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