

Kennedy Sides With McGovern

BOSTON — (AP) — Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) was quoted in a Boston Globe interview today as saying, "People understand where my sympathies are in this election. They are with Sen. George McGovern and the positions that he takes."

But Kennedy added in a Washington interview with Robert Healy, the Globe's political editor, that he did not think a preconvention endorsement of McGovern "would make any difference anyway."

Healy said Kennedy made clear that if he thought an endorsement would help McGovern or if it would

clearly take him (Kennedy) completely out of the contest for president, he would give it.

"But my endorsement would raise as many questions as it would resolve in the short run," Kennedy said.

Healy said Kennedy stated that an endorsement would mean to some that he was in fact taking himself out of the presidential race but to others it would mean he was setting himself up so that "if McGovern did get tipped over at the convention, Kennedy was positioning himself to take over the McGovern support."

The Harris Survey

Teddy's Strength Against Nixon

By Louis Harris

If blacks, low-income whites, and young people were to vote their full numbers at the ballot box, Sen. Edward Kennedy would run the strongest race of any leading Democrat against President Nixon.

Among the entire population 18 years of age and over, Kennedy trails Nixon by four percentage points — 41-to-37 percent — with Gov. George Wallace as a third-party nominee at 15 percent. By contrast, Sen. Hubert Humphrey runs behind by six, 41-35 percent, Sen. Edmund Muskie by eight, 42-34 percent, and Sen. George McGovern by 45-28 percent.

Even with Kennedy as the nominee, however, it is unlikely, judging on past performances, that blacks, low-income whites, and young people would vote their full potential next November. When those least likely to vote are eliminated, Kennedy slips behind Nixon by a full 10 points: 45-to-35 percent, with Wallace at 14 percent.

As the vote is winnowed down from a potential 100 percent of those 18 and over to a more likely 65 percent, the big loser in the process of attrition is Kennedy.

Here are the reasons!

- Persons 18-29 years of age now make up 28 percent of the population eligible to vote, but likely will be no more than 24 percent of the actual electorate in November, based on present registration totals and past turnout. Kennedy wins this segment 48-33 percent with Wallace at 12 percent. Slippage among the young who do not turn out to vote on Election Day could cost Kennedy 1.5 points of his support.

- Blacks make up 11 percent of the population, but at best will be 9 percent of the actual electorate, based on past turnout and voting restrictions in effect. Kennedy holds a wide, 79-14 percent lead among blacks. The failure of blacks to vote their full numbers in November could cost Kennedy another 2.5 points.

- Low-income voters are 25 percent of the potential but are likely to be no more than 21 percent of the actual voters come Election Day. Kennedy leads with the group with income under \$5000, by 46-40 percent. He loses almost decreased turnout.