

Kennedy Move Called Politics

Two weeks ago, Sen. Ed. Brooke (R-Mass.) said in a widely publicized Los Angeles speech that "there is more goodwill in Congress now toward Mr. Nixon than perhaps at any time in his career in public life."

Kennedy, praising Mr. Nixon's diplomatic initiatives and his economic policies, said, "I, for one, will extend the olive branch to the Administration in the coming Congress."

When E. Timmons, a former aide to the President for congressional relations was asked about Kennedy's speech, this is what he said: "I think he is right. I think there is a great reservoir of goodwill toward the President personally on Capitol Hill . . . He served in the House, he served in the Senate . . . He has rapport with members of Congress. . . There is a real chemistry that works between the President and members of Congress. . . I have seen it happen this time again, even with opposed adversaries . . . He is kind of a man of Congress. Although he has gotten a lot of criticism that he doesn't care

about Congress . . . he has a healthy respect for the institution of Congress and the separation of powers. "So I agree with Ted Kennedy that there is a reservoir of goodwill up there for the President. But my personal view of Kennedy's motives is not quite so pure. "I think he felt, 'Why hit the President who has now been re-elected and who is not going to be running again? He did get 61 per cent. He did pull in a lot of voters that might be termed the new majority.' " "They are people that Teddy Kennedy would like

to break, so why should he attack the President? . . . Politically, there is no advantage in attacking him. Just the other way around. Good politics is to get away from the political charges and to be a great statesman and say nice things about your old adversary. People say, 'My God, wasn't that big of him? He might be pretty good timber himself.' "I think that his motives were along that line, but I agree with what he said . . . that there is reservoir of goodwill toward the President up there."

—David S. Broder