

Merry-Go-Round**The Senate 'Club'
And Ted Kennedy****Drew Pearson**

Today's column is by Drew Pearson and Jack Anderson

Washington

WITH THE possible exception of the one man whom he replaced as majority whip, probably all the Democratic membership of the Senate was distressed and disturbed over the recent plight of Senator Edward Kennedy. Now that he has returned to the Senate, they are sympathetic and eager to help him.

The Senate is a "club" in both reputation and fact, and even Senator Tom Dodd, who had lost the respect of most of his colleagues by his cringing defense of his personal use of campaign funds, has been received with scrupulous courtesy.

With Teddy it is different. For Teddy there has been genuine warmth and affection. This was not true in the case of his two elder brothers. Jack was absent a great deal. He was in the hospital with back trouble. He used to spend part of the winter at his father's Palm Beach home.

Bobby chafed at the routine of the Senate, was frequently absent, never attended committee meetings unless they really interested him, and although his voting record was excellent, he was never a working member of the club.

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BUT TEDDY has been continuously on the job. He picks his Senate battles not because they are easy, but because they affect the broadest segment of the population — the little people. In his short period as majority whip his Senate record has been magnificent.

But old Senate hands, much as they like him, wonder whether he can continue to be effective following the tragedy of Chappaquiddick. It is not that Senators are prudish about an office party or sex or drinking on the side. They think Teddy

can live this down just as other members of his family have. It is rather the memory of that dead girl, left under water for nine long hours when earlier she might have been rescued. That's the memory they think will come back to haunt Teddy, may influence Senate debate.

In some respects it is not that questions will be asked, but rather that Teddy will know they could be asked, which may put a damper on the courage and energy of the promising young man from Massachusetts.

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MODERN SENATORS on the whole are kindly and respectful. Newspapermen and politicians are not. And there are many of both who resent the manner in which the Kennedy juggernaut operates to suppress newspaper criticism of the Kennedys and to squelch political opposition to the Kennedy clan. The Kennedy juggernaut has been quiet of late. But it emerged from behind the scenes in full force the other weekend when ghostwriter after ghostwriter, ranging from ex-secretary Bobby McNamara to Arthur Schlesinger, who flew all the way back from Romania, converged on Cape Cod.

This is a mass display of strength which arouses resentment, not sympathy.

There are many politicians also who have come to grips with the Kennedy political machine, carefully greased, equipped with advance men, bands, private airplanes, advance publicity and hundreds of thousands of dollars of campaign funds surreptitiously spent in the right places but never accounted for.

They too have memories and they will not be as respectful as Senators.

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