

THE HARRIS SURVEY

Muskie Gains On Kennedy

By Louis Harris

Senator Edmund Muskie has risen dramatically and Senator Edward Kennedy has fallen back as the preferred candidate for the Democratic nomination for President in 1972.

In May, Kennedy led Muskie among all likely voters by 41-19 percent. But after the Chappaquidick affair and Sen. Eugene McCarthy's withdrawal from re-election next year, Kennedy slipped to a narrow 30-28 percent margin over Muskie.

However, Kennedy still holds a substantial lead among just Democratic voters, leading Muskie by 41 to 23 percent, with Hubert Humphrey in third place with 20 percent.

In practical political terms, such strength among the rank and file of his party may count more toward the ultimate nomination than appeal outside the party.

In 1968, Independents and Democrats preferred Nelson Rockefeller to Richard Nixon for the GOP nomination. But Nixon consistently led this New York rival among Republicans.

Sen. Muskie leads Sen. Kennedy as the preferred choice among Independents by a 4 point margin and among Republicans by 28 points.

A cross section of 1573 qualified voters across the country was asked: From July 30th - Aug. 2nd:

"If you had to choose now, who would be your first choice for the Democratic nomination for President in 1972?"

"Suppose your choice were out of it, who would be your second choice for the Democratic nomination for President in 1972?"

	1st Choice	2nd Choice
Sen Edward Kennedy	30	13
Sen. Edmund Muskie	28	23
Hubert Humphrey	18	26
Sen. George McGovern	6	10
Sen. Fred Harris	2	3
None	7	10
Not sure	9	15

These results show clearly that Kennedy's support is deeply-felt but rises to no more than 43 percent of the public as first or second choice. In May, a much higher 68 percent named him as their first or second choice. Muskie achieves a higher 51 percent in the current poll who named him as first or second choice, up from 41 percent in May.

Hubert Humphrey was acceptable to 46 percent two months ago and now is the first or second choice to 44 percent—no appreciable change.

It can be fairly concluded that Kennedy at the time is no longer the dominant prospective Democratic nominee in 1972.

For the first time, with the public at least, Senator Muskie appears to be in a position to overtake the youngest of the Kennedy brothers as the front-runner.

RESUME

BOSTON — (AP) — Sen. Edmund Muskie of Maine has emerged as the primary contender for the 1972 Democratic presidential nomination in the eyes of many of the nation's Democratic party leaders, the Christian Science Monitor said today.

The Monitor said it polled 100 of the country's Democratic chairmen and national committeemen on the question of the nomination.

Forty who responded termed Muskie, the party's vice presidential nominee in 1968, the man most likely to carry the Democratic banner in 1972.

Former Vice President Humphrey the party's presidential nominee in 1968, was second in the poll, receiving nods from 16 party leaders, the Monitor said.

Sen. Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts placed third, but he received support from only five of those responding. Kennedy had been the nearly unanimous choice of those replying to a similar poll conducted by the Monitor in February, before he removed himself from consideration after the auto accident that took the life of a 28 year old secretary.