

JACK ANDERSON

Ted Takes Role As Demo Leader

WASHINGTON — On Capitol Hill at least, Sen. Ted Kennedy quietly has overcome the Mary Jo Kopechne case. He has resumed his role as leader of the Senate's liberal Democrats, directing floor debates, speaking out on issues and masterminding backstage strategy.



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No one is more aware of the return to power in the Senate than are the Republican leaders. Bryce Harlow, the chief White House lobbyist, has reported to President Nixon that Kennedy now is running the Senate Democratic Policy Committee.

Montana's Mike Mansfield, the gentle Senate Democratic leader, has given way to the more vigorous Kennedy. Kennedy's leadership, Harlow reported, has brought a rise to power of the Democratic Policy Committee.

"They reach their political judgments on camera," warned Harlow.

At a political strategy session behind closed White House doors, the President asked his party leaders how he should cope with the Kennedy-deominated Congress.

Senate Republican Leader Hugh Scott suggested the President "needs to go on the offensive, to strike a note of moral indignation."

There are responsible Democrats and highly partisan Democrats," observed Vice President Agnew.

"We should isolate the adversary," agreed Scott.

"There is little reference in the press," grumped Nixon, "to the support of the President by over 100 congressmen, Democrats and Republicans. The press emphasis is on the

opposition of nine senators. Let's distinguish the 'super partisans'."

Both Republican National Chairman Rogers C.B. Morton and House GOP Policy Chairman John Rhodes agreed with Scott that the "adversary" should be "identified" and "isolated."

"Identify those who hold up legislation," declared Rhodes. "Shine the light on how the Democrats are split."

The President asked whether Mansfield was one of the "cooperative" Democrats.

"Kennedy counts most heavily," replied Maine's Sen. Margaret Chase Smith, the Senate Republican Policy chairwoman.

House GOP whip Les Arends interjected with a report on the Democratic struggle to succeed Speaker John McCormack. Arends described it as an "undercover but fierce" fight.

"It exhibits itself," he complained, "in competition to be the hardest on the Republicans." He suggested that "We have to sharpen up and hit on a few clear issues."

"The President should decide on those things which have to be done regardless of politics," advised House GOP Leader Gerald Ford. "As to the rest, we just have to take on the Democrats."

Nixon asked his congressional leaders whether they could uphold his vetoes on "political" legislation. He warned that the Democrats "may pass some bills designed to invite vetoes" and "may balloon some appropriations far beyond what I can take."

Morton pointed out that one problem was that the ranking Republicans on the congressional committees were "close" to the Democratic chairmen.

"Can we unlock them a bit to fight harder for our programs?" he asked.

Ford shook his head negatively.

"The relationship," he said, "is almost incestuous."

Thus, on the eve of the 1970 congressional campaign, the Republican White House and Democratic Congress are bracing for a political battle. The rival strategists, it now appears, are going to be President Nixon and Sen. Kennedy.

A UNIQUE CEREMONY

will take place this week in Rehovot, Israel—an incident that the world would have believed 25 years ago. A dynamic German home as "Mr. [Name] awarded a [Name] ship by [Name]."