

Senator Booed In Boston

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Boston

Senator Edward Kennedy (Dem-Mass.) was booed off a stage and splattered with a tomato yesterday when he tried to address an angry crowd of anti-busing demonstrators.

The gathering in the plaza outside the John F. Kennedy Federal Building had been called to protest a court-ordered busing program scheduled to begin when Boston schools open on Thursday. The program involves 18,200 pupils — 8500 whites and 9700 blacks.

Kennedy said he was disappointed that he had not been able to speak. But he said he had been subjected to worse abuse during anti-war demonstrations.

A crowd estimated by police at 8000 to 10,000 persons shouted insults, chanted "Impeach Kennedy", turned their backs on the Senator and sang "God Bless America" when he stepped to the microphone.

As Kennedy and his aides climbed down from the platform and walked briskly around the edge of the crowd, several women leaped in front of him and shook their fists. At least one struck him on the shoulder.

Two tomatoes were thrown and one hit someone near Kennedy, splattering the senator as he walked quickly into the federal building where he has his offices.

The demonstrators pounded their fists on the building's windows, threw eggs and smashed a ten-foot-long

From Page 1

pane of plate glass.

The rally yesterday, sponsored by an organization called ROAR ("Return our Alienated Rights"), was designed to expand a proposed two-week school boycott and to urge a one-year moratorium on all busing.

The deep resentment of Kennedy by the white parents was evident before he appeared on the scene Monday. His name was booed every time it was mentioned and signs in the crowd called for the impeachment of both Kennedy and Senator Edward Brooke (Rep-Mass.).

The leader of ROAR, Rita Graul, later told reporters Kennedy had been invited several days ago to speak but had not responded before the rally got underway in a large plaza between City Hall and the Kennedy Building.

His failure to respond earlier, she said, was why she refused to try to silence the crowd Monday and let him speak.

"He's never acknowledged a letter from any of the parents who have written him (about school desegregation)," Mrs. Graul said. "What makes him think they'll listen to him today? The people of Boston turned their backs on Kennedy today. That is the true feeling of the people."

Kennedy aides, however, said the senator had assured a delegation of parents who visited him just as the rally began that he would address the crowd.

Kennedy, who says he favors peaceful integration, had been identified by speakers at the rally as a proponent of busing.

"People feel very strongly about this," he said. "They're entitled to their views."

"If they had allowed me to speak I would have told them I share their concern," he said. "I know there are parents out there who are concerned about the safety of their children and they shouldn't be considered bigots."

He said he could not speak

at the rally, because the plug to his microphone had been pulled out.

The demonstrators — most of them women and virtually all of them white — marched to the federal building from Boston Common. They stopped in front of the office of U.S. District Court Judge W. Arthur Garrity, who ordered the busing plan, and shouted "Garrity must go."

Kennedy said he hoped the emotion shown by busing opponents will dissipate before school opened.

"I am not confident that it will," he said. "There are still voices in the community stirring up hatred among the races."

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Back Page Col. 5