



SARGENT SHRIVER AND HIS WIFE EUNICE
He's ready to try again — this time as No. 1

UPI Photo

SF Examiner SEP 21 1975

Shriver joins Demo pack, invokes JFK

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Sargent Shriver yesterday claimed the political mantle of John F. Kennedy as he became the eighth candidate to enter the 1976 Democratic presidential sweepstakes.

Opening what he called a "people's campaign," Shriver said he can offer "the honest and truthful leadership that summons the best that is in us — as John Kennedy once did."

"I intend to claim that legacy for those billions of unknown human beings around the world

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Claims JFK's legacy

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Shriver enters the sweepstakes

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me to take it," he said.

Shriver said he has met the requirement for federal matching campaign funds by raising \$5,000 in each of 20 states. He said that in less than nine weeks he has raised a total \$186,352 with an average contribution of \$124.

Although Shriver said he has not decided which presidential primaries to enter, aides reported he is considering the Feb. 24 New Hampshire primary and the March 2 Massachusetts primary.

Shriver said he seeks support from all political elements, but can not endorse Alabama Gov. George Wallace for either spot on the ticket.

He received the loudest and most sustained applause when he declared he wants to stop discrimination against working women.

Shriver joins a Democratic field that already includes: Sens. Henry Jackson of Washington and Lloyd Bentsen of Texas; Rep. Morris Udall of Arizona; Pennsyl-

vania Gov. Milton Shapp; former Oklahoma Sen. Fred Harris; former Georgia Gov. Jimmy Carter and former North Carolina Gov. Terry Sanford.

The 59-year-old Shriver, who was JFK's brother-in-law, denied he is a stalking horse for the surviving Kennedy brother, Edward.

At a news conference following his speech before hundreds of friends and supporters in the packed ballroom of a downtown hotel, Shriver was asked if he would drop his own campaign if Kennedy entered the race.

"Wouldn't everybody?" Shriver replied.

"I'm not a stalking horse," he said. "He doesn't need a stalking horse. All of the candidates now in the field agree that if Sen. Kennedy wanted the nomination he could get it.

"But I think we ought to take him at his word — let him alone — and get on about the business

of selecting a presidential candidate."

Shriver said Kennedy, who did not attend the announcement, has offered him encouragement and advice but has not formally endorsed him because he has promised other candidates to remain neutral in the 1976 presidential race.

But Shriver had no hesitation about invoking the names of others in the Kennedy family.

"I am fortified by my family," he declared. "By my mother . . . by my wife Eunice . . . by Rose Kennedy and Ethel Kennedy and Jackie, by Jean, and Pat and Joan . . .

"In peace and war, in public and private life, they know the demands and duties, the joys and sorrows of the kind of course I am taking, and they have encouraged

Those regarded as likely to declare soon include Wallace and Sen. Birch Bayh of Indiana.