

Kennedy's Mother Recalls Pledge He Wouldn't Run

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Rose Kennedy said her son, Senator Edward M. Kennedy, might be "pressured" into running for the Presidency.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4—Rose Kennedy has said in a published interview that she extracted a promise from her last surviving son, Senator Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts, that he would not run for President this year.

But she was quoted as saying, "I feel Teddy may be pressured into running for President this year. I don't want him to, but the pressures may force him."

Senator Kennedy has filed formal affidavits required to keep him off the primary ballot in some states, asserting that there were "no circumstances" that could make him a Presidential candidate in 1976.

Informed of his mother's interview today while he was campaigning in Massachusetts for re-election to the Senate, Mr. Kennedy insisted, "Nothing has changed, and nothing will change."

His mother's remarks appeared in a Palm Beach interview in The National Enquirer with Charles Van Rensselaer, an acquaintance of the Kennedy family who used to write for the Hearst newspapers under the name Cholly Knickerbocker.

'He Promised Me'

In the interview, the 85-year-old Mrs. Kennedy said that the assassinations of two of her sons—President Kennedy and Senator Robert F. Kennedy had prompted her to appeal to Edward Kennedy not to run for the Presidency.

"He promised me, he promised me faithfully that he would not run," she said. "I told him I did not want to see him die, too, that I could not stand another tragedy like the deaths of his brothers John and Bobby."

"I have made Ted promise me repeatedly that he would not run for the Presidency. I told him that his family needs him too much, that John's children and Bobby's children need

him as the father they no longer have.

"But even though he has given me his promise that he will not run, I realize there are considerations that could make him change his mind. He may feel it is something he has to do, or the party may feel he must. And if that is his decision, I would support him. I'll campaign for him, anywhere he wants me to. You know, I'm quite a campaigner."

'He shouldn't Run'

But she quickly added: "He shouldn't run, though. Oh, no. No. We've had so many tragedies already. I have prayed so much about this and I have asked God that Teddy will be led to the right decision. But in the end I have put it all in God's hands and I will follow His will, no matter what it is."

By the admission that she would not hold her son to his promise, Mrs. Kennedy seemed to open a crack in a political door that Senator Kennedy has repeatedly and insistently slammed shut. His firm comment today seemed intended to squelch any expectations that his mother's published comments might arouse.

Among some voters and a few old Kennedy hands an ember of hope still glows about a deadlocked convention and unforeseen political conditions that could overwhelm all those disclaimers. But in the polls and in political circles, Senator Kennedy has convinced more and more people that he means exactly what he says.

For Matthew J. Troy, a New York City Councilman and Kennedy confidant, the clincher was Mr. Kennedy's recent reference to his own promise to his mother. "He said to me, 'As long as she's alive,' I won't run," he said.

Promoted '68 Talk

Mr. Troy recalled today that he himself promoted talk at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago in 1968 that Senator Kennedy was available for the nomination when Mr. Kennedy insisted he was not.

"They have a great way of 'noodging' everybody," Mr. Troy said. "Teddy gives you the credibility you sometimes don't want."

Of Mrs. Kennedy's remark that "Teddy may be pressured into running," he commented, "I don't care what she said. I just don't see him doing it—not because he doesn't want it, but there just isn't that much demand for him."

"If anybody comes in to a deadlocked convention, Hubert

Humphrey's going to play that role this year," he said, pointing, as many other party professionals have, to the Democratic Senator from Minnesota, a noncandidate who says he will take the nomination if it is offered to him.

Mr. Troy's own preference is uncertain. "I'd come out for Jimmy Carter if I weren't committed to some television people to stay neutral," he said.

But many others who have campaigned with Kennedys in the past have made firm pledges to other candidates.

Manager for Carter

William Vanden Heuvel, a Manhattan lawyer who was closely identified with Robert Kennedy, is the New York campaign chairman for Mr. Carter, the former Governor of Georgia.

Richard Drayne, who was Senator Kennedy's press secretary for more than a decade, is now working with Sargent Shriver, Mr. Kennedy's brother-in-law, who said he would not have entered the Presidential race without explicit assurances from the Senator that their plans would not collide.

Jess Unruh, who represented President Kennedy's political interests in California and is now state treasurer there, has the title of California campaign chairman for Senator Henry M. Jackson of Washington.

The House Democratic leader, Thomas P. O'Neill Jr. of Cambridge, Mass., who last summer encouraged speculation that Senator Kennedy would be a candidate in 1976 but recanted at the Senator's insistence, has leaned publicly toward his colleague from Arizona, Representative Morris K. Udall. The majority leader's son, Lieut. Gov. Thomas P. O'Neill 3d of Massachusetts, is pledged,

meanwhile, to Senator Birch Bayh of Indiana, himself an old ally of the Kennedys.

Rose Kennedy has already campaigned—and promised to do more—for her son-in-law, Mr. Shriver. And there was nothing in her interview in The National Enquirer to suggest any change of heart. Indeed, Mr. Shriver's success would be one obvious way to ease the "pressures" she spoke of on Senator Kennedy.