

# Kennedy, Upset by Memories Of Tragedy, Calls Off Rally

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ITHACA, N.Y., Sept. 28—Robert F. Kennedy today canceled a rally scheduled this morning in Union Square in New York because of the sorrowful memories evoked by the publication of the Warren Commission report on President Kennedy's assassination, his aides said.

Instead of campaigning, he spent the morning with Mrs. John F. Kennedy, the widow of the President. "It's been a rough day for both of them," an aide said.

All morning assignments today were canceled, including a walking tour of 14th Street in Manhattan from Fifth Avenue to Union Square.

In the afternoon Mr. Kennedy flew to Ithaca for the start of a two-day tour of central and western New York. He spoke

to a crowd of 200 at Ithaca Airport and to 1,000 persons at DeWitt Park in downtown Ithaca.

Mr. Kennedy seemed subdued, and so did his audiences in this heavily Republican Finger Lakes region. Tompkins County, of which Ithaca is the seat, went for Richard M. Nixon in 1960. The vote was 17,061 for Nixon and 7,597 for Kennedy.

On the flight up from New York Mr. Kennedy sat by himself, staring out of the plane. Occasionally he smiled wanly during his speeches, which lacked fire.

Before leaving New York City, Mr. Kennedy issued a statement in which he came out against statehood for Puerto Rico. He said he favored the continuation of Commonwealth status for the island.

The Democratic Senatorial candidate accused his Republican opponent, Senator Kenneth B. Keating, of "anxiously" soliciting the Spanish-speaking vote in New York by taking a stand in favor of Puerto Rico statehood.

In opposing statehood, Mr. Kennedy aligned himself with Gov. Luis Munoz Marin of Puerto Rico, who had labeled Senator Keating's stand a "mistake." The Governor had asserted that statehood at this time would destroy the progress that Puerto Rico had made in recent years.

Mr. Kennedy, opening a two-day tour of central and western New York, said: "My opponent, seeking anxiously for votes, has come out in favor of statehood for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

"I am sorry that he has seen fit to inject this nonpolitical issue into a political campaign.

"An incisive study of the future status of Puerto Rico by a special Status Commission, of which Senator Keating is a member, has been authorized and directed by act of Congress.

"That commission has not even begun its study. The Puerto Rican members who are to be involved in the formulation of the report have not yet been consulted. Yet it is clear that the viewpoints of the people of Puerto Rico must be taken into major account in the formula-

tion of the report and finally in the determination of action to be taken.

"The action to be taken on the status of Puerto Rico—and the manner in which it is taken—are matters of major moment in our relations with the entire Latin American world. It is not a matter for a quick-draw comment aimed at the votes of New Yorkers of Puerto Rican descent."

### Keating Called Mistaken

Governor Munoz Mairn, in a statement printed Saturday in El Diario-La Prensa, asserted that Senator Keating was mistaken in saying that the majority of Puerto Ricans favored statehood.

"I regret," he said, "the mistake made by Senator Keating, which is certainly not going to help him with Puerto Ricans living on the mainland who have families in the island, and who know of the economic progress being made by the Commonwealth. They know that this progress would be tragically destroyed, either under statehood status or under total independence.

The majority of the people of Puerto Rico favor permanent union with the United States, under commonwealth status. They are, of course, anxious to start making their contribution to the common expenses of our nation, to the extent that the financial capacities of Puerto Rico permit, and under the concept of commonwealth."

Mr. Kennedy said he found the Governor's views "most convincing," and added: "I subscribe to them entirely."