

## Evans and Novak Humphrey's Millionaires

WASHINGTON—A coalition of millionaire businessmen led by card-carrying members of Lyndon B. Johnson's \$1,000-a-head president's club plans to raise a minimum \$4 million kitty for Vice President Hubert Humphrey's presidential bid.

The \$4 million target will undoubtedly reach far higher before the Democratic convention in Chicago next August. But the remarkable fact is that, for the first time in his long political career, poor boy Hubert Humphrey is guaranteed virtually unlimited financing. His threadbare primary election campaign of 1960 against John F. Kennedy will not be repeated.

The major factor behind this sudden beneficence of big money on behalf of the vice president, which may include such prominent Republicans as Henry Ford Jr. and U.S. Steel's Roger Blough, is the absolute determination to stop Sen. Robert F. Kennedy's drive for the presidency.

"Hubert's been promised the last farthing in one of Manhattan's largest fortunes to stop Bobby," a New York financier with impeccable Republican credentials told us.

The root of this intense desire to stop Sen. Kennedy is fear and distrust of the senator in the business community not felt about any major party politician since New Deal days.

Mr. Humphrey, no longer regarded by business as the ADA bomb-thrower of years past, is the logical Democratic alternative.

The story begins on the evening of April 2, when some 250 well-heeled businessmen, many of them advertisers in *Look* magazine, dined at Manhattan's Waldorf-Astoria as guests at publisher Gardner Cowles' an-

two days earlier. But in private huddles around the room, Mr. Humphrey learned that many of the businessmen present wanted him to run and were willing to stake him to the race.

Mr. Cowles himself, in introducing Mr. Humphrey for his off-the-record talk, said he regarded Mr. Humphrey as the best qualified politician in the country to be president. The affinity between Mr. Humphrey and Mr. Cowles' other dinner guests, one participant told us, was the same as though the party had been given for labor leaders — Mr. Humphrey's patrons in politics—instead of business moguls.

Afterwards, Mr. Humphrey and several money-men, including Sidney J. Weinberg, the Wall Street financier and one-time Republican kingmaker, discussed the campaign and how to finance it until 2 a. m. in an upstairs suite.

The events that evening confirmed the judgment of Humphrey advisers that he must run for the nomination. Mr. Humphrey himself, who had been brooding over the President's sudden withdrawal, reached his final decision to run (he'll announce on Saturday here in Washington with political supporters coming in from all over the country) largely on the basis of pledges that came his way that night.

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nual off-the-record dinner party. Featured speaker was Mr. Humphrey, who the past three years often faced these same men in private meetings to explain Johnson administration policies.

On that evening Mr. Humphrey had far from decided to run. He was uncertain and uneasy about his future. President Johnson's no-second-term announcement had come only