

Demos Want Teddy To Run With HHH

By ROBERT S. BOYD
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WASHINGTON — Tald of Sen. Edward Kennedy for vice president is spreading like wildfire through the Democratic Party.

The 36 year old heir to the Kennedy name and tradition is being seriously considered as a running-mate to Vice President Hubert Humphrey.

The advantages and disadvantages of a Humphrey-Kennedy ticket were discussed at a confidential meeting of the Humphrey staff Thursday morning, only hours after Sen. Robert Kennedy's death.

TELEGRAM

A Humphrey backer, Rep. Clarence Long (D-Md.) sent Humphrey a telegram yesterday urging him to invite the Massachusetts senator to join his ticket.

Such a move "would strengthen the unity of the Democrats and give us the strongest possible ticket with which to win victory in November," said Long, a Democratic national convention delegate pledged to Humphrey.

"Above all, the nomination of Edward Kennedy would be a splendid tribute to an eminent American family," Long said.

A supporter of Robert Kennedy, Armistead Boothe, of Alexandria, Va., said the Kennedy name is "so important to millions of our people, as well as abroad, it would be beneficial to have the younger brother on the ballot."

Boothe, a former Senate candidate, headed the Virginians-for-Kennedy organization before the assassination.

CAROLINA

There was widespread private speculation about Ted Kennedy as a vice presidential candidate at Thursday's North Carolina Democratic state convention in Raleigh.

"They wouldn't gulp too bad," said one Tar Heel Democrat familiar with the drift of conversation at the convention.

In Ohio, a number of Democratic delegates were reported discussing a Humphrey-Kennedy "dream ticket." One Ohio delegate said he thought Humphrey would ask Kennedy, and Kennedy would accept.

A New York Democrat, however, predicted Humphrey would delay any move on his vice president at least until the Republican ticket is completed in mid-August, and probably until the Democratic convention in late August.

REFLECTION

Meanwhile, Kennedy was being advised by his staff to go away for a while to rest, recover from the shock of his second brother's death, and reflect on his future.

Some Democrats, for example in Indiana, commented that the senator is very young, and the sympathy for his brother might be washed away by resentment of what would look like a Kennedy claim to a permanent lease on the White House.

A Kennedy for vice president movement, however, would make political sense.

It would help win for Humphrey the allegiance of the disappointed backers of Robert Kennedy, some of whom especially the young, the militant, and the poor, might otherwise stay home on election day.

It could strengthen the confidence of disenchanted Negroes and intellectuals in the Democratic Party.

And unlike Robert Kennedy, Ted is not anathema in the South.

GENTLER

"There's no real strong bias against Teddy," said a North Carolina Democrat. "He's a gentler sort of per-

son than Bobby, and he hasn't been involved in much controversy."

"It strikes me personally as a splendid idea," said a South Carolina Democrat.

A Humphrey operative in the South said, "The politicians here would buy it in a minute. The Kennedy's don't all look alike to the politicians."

Some reservations were heard.

"I don't think we have to look for somebody in the Kennedy family for vice president," a southern Democrat said. "There must be some other qualifications for holding one of those two offices."

And a Humphrey worker said of Ted Kennedy: "He's not really smart, but he's got good judgement and he surrounds himself with very good people."

LIBERALS

A major drawback to a Humphrey-Kennedy ticket is that it combines two northern liberals. It would do little to help hold a crucial state like Texas, for example, which is likely to go Republican unless someone like Gov. John Connally is on the ticket.

Also, there may be considerable reluctance by the Kennedy family and circle to expose yet another member of this tragic family to the perils of high office.

NBC correspondent Sander Vanocur, who accompanied Robert Kennedy's body from Los Angeles, said there was a strong feeling that the family had done enough.

If Kennedy were nominated for vice president, the odds are about one-in-eight that he will someday succeed to the White House.

About one of every four American presidents has died in office. Even if Humphrey is elected and survives his full term, Kennedy would have a claim to succeed him in 1972 or 1976.