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KENNEDY in '80

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KENNEDY LOOKS LIKE CANDIDATE -- MOMENTUM BUILDS IN KEY STATES

Senator Kennedy's recent encouraging comments have spurred a gathering momentum in the Draft Kennedy movements around the country. Since the second week of September, Senator Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts has moved leagues from his studied statements that he expected President Carter to be the nominee and that he expected to support Carter, to the clear implication that his own candidacy is imminent.

Kennedy supporters have taken to heart this signal that the Senator will run and have put additional effort into the three crucial states -- Florida, Iowa and New Hampshire. "A Kennedy candidacy is virtually a reality now," said Americans for Democratic Action (ADA) National Director Leon Shull. "He has all but declared for the Presidency. In fact, he joins Jimmy Carter and Jerry Brown who have yet to declare their own candidacies officially."

Kennedy's statements have given a shot in the arm to the Draft Kennedy movements. For the first time the independent Kennedy groups, of which approximately 30 are registered with the Federal Election Commission, are beginning to receive substantial donations. New Draft Kennedy organizations are being formed in almost every state, often by or with the help of ADA members.

Meanwhile, the organizations in the three key states -- Florida, Iowa and New Hampshire -- are moving ahead. The first head-on confrontation between the Senator and the President will take place in a straw poll to be voted at the Florida State Democratic Convention in St. Petersburg, November 17-18, 1980. Although the vote has no binding effect on the selection of delegates to the National Convention, it does set the tone for the ensuing debate in 1980.

In Florida, the crucial date is October 13, when little more than half the delegates to the State Convention will be elected in county caucuses. The other delegates will be selected by the county and state Democratic leaders, a hierarchy that is heavily Carter-controlled. Under these circumstances we cannot expect a Kennedy victory. However, these conditions will not prevail in the March primary in which the 1980 Democratic National Convention delegates will be chosen. Then Kennedy can win.

Carter first came to national notice when he won the 1975 Florida State Convention straw poll with 67 percent of the vote. The President still has strong support in this Southern state and his re-election campaign has made the Florida campaign a major priority, committing large amounts of staff and resources to it. Despite these efforts, there have been major defections from the 1975 Carter team. Florida for Kennedy Committee Chairperson Mike Abrams, the Dade County (Miami) Democratic Chairperson, and Executive Director Sergio Bendixen, a

Democratic National Committeeman, both helped mastermind the Carter victory in 1975. The third Kennedy Co-Chairperson is longtime ADA member Katherine Kelly and other ADAers are deeply involved. With their help the Draft Kennedy movement is organizing in every county in the state. It has enlisted ADA National Board member Page Gardner to work through the Florida primary in March and ADA Press Secretary Harry Margolis to participate in the last two weeks of the caucus campaign.

A strong Kennedy showing in Florida would do great harm to the Carter re-election campaign and would greatly aid the prospective Kennedy campaign. In addition, it would serve as a preliminary test of the strength of a national Kennedy candidacy. As Kennedy has said, he cannot wait for the New Hampshire primary results on February 26, 1980, to decide whether to seek the presidency. By then, the filing dates for over half the other primaries will have passed.

The actual selection of delegates to the 1980 Democratic National Convention begins with the precinct caucuses in Iowa on January 21 where pro-Kennedy forces are organized to make a strong showing. At the same time the latest poll in New Hampshire, the state that quadrennially makes or breaks presidential candidates, shows Kennedy favored over Carter 2-1. Even if Kennedy does not file in New Hampshire, the Draft Kennedy movement there is prepared to run a write-in campaign. According to New Hampshire Democrats for Change leader Dudley Dudley a write-in campaign would be difficult to win, even with Kennedy's overwhelming lead in the polls.

THE MATCHING PLEDGE FUND

ADAers have taken the lead in developing a Kennedy Matching Pledge Fund to assist Senator Kennedy in qualifying quickly for federal matching funds once he declares his candidacy.

The Fund is seeking \$5,000, in pledges of \$250 or less, in each of 20 states. Patsy T. Mink, ADA President, explains that "the pledges raised will be held until Senator Kennedy makes his decision. Upon his announcement of candidacy, the pledgers will be requested to pay their pledges immediately to the Senator's authorized election campaign committee for immediate qualification for matching funds."

The Fund, Ms. Mink said, will "ease the effort for the Kennedy campaign when he enters, and add one more important proof of the very substantial support for a Kennedy candidacy."

Ms. Mink has agreed to serve as Chairperson of the Matching Pledge Fund committee. Other members are William Winpisinger, President of the International Association of Machinists; Winn Newman, Treasurer of the Pledge Fund and general counsel of the International Union of Electrical Workers; lawyer Joseph Rauh, Jr.; Senator Paul Tsongas (D-Mass.); and ADA National Director Leon Shull, who will serve as Pledge Fund Secretary.

The Draft Kennedy movement needs your help in every state, and especially now in Florida, Iowa and New Hampshire. If you can volunteer some of your time or make a contribution, contact your local Democratic Alternative or Draft Kennedy Committee. Enclosed is a list of Kennedy/Alternative Committees around the country. New committees are being formed constantly, so this cannot be a complete list. If there is no committee at work in your area, contact us and we will help

in forming one.

Help raise funds to assist the crucial early efforts in Florida, Iowa and New Hampshire. Hold a bake sale, or a dinner, or a Run Teddy Run race, or a fund-raising cocktail reception. The Carter re-election campaign has already raised almost \$2 million nation-wide; pro-Kennedy people in the early states need money desperately. Please send what you can spare today.

Familiarize yourself with your state party's delegate selection plan. Attend precinct caucuses if your state has them. We enclose up-to-date information about state dates for caucuses, primaries and filing dates, plus a brief run-down on state delegate selection plans. All this information is accurate at this date, but is subject to change, and many state plans are not yet available.

Above all, get involved now and ask us if you need further information. We'll be happy to help you help in this crucial effort.

Please return this to Amy Isaacs; Kennedy in '80; 1411 K St., N.W.; Suite 850; Washington, D.C. 20005. Or phone (202) 638-6447.

Please keep me informed. I enclose \$ _____ to help ADA's Draft Kennedy program.

I would like information about ...

delegate selection in my state.

the Kennedy Matching Pledge Fund.

membership in ADA.

people or groups in my state working for Draft Kennedy.

I would like to pledge \$ _____ to the Kennedy Matching Pledge Fund.

Please send me a 'Kennedy in '80' button _____ buttons _____.

These people would like to receive this Kennedy in '80 newsletter: _____

My name and address: _____
