

Choice '68: for Demos leaves the big surprise Bobby Kennedy

by Phyllis Adkisson
Junior Staff Writer

Brilliant, ruthless. Politician, statesman. Hope or damnation of the country. Controversy swirls around Robert Francis Kennedy, junior senator from New York, no matter where he goes or what he does. The winds were never so furious as they were on March 18 when, in the senate caucus room, backed by his wife Ethel and nine of their 10 children, Kennedy announced that he would seek the democratic nomination for president in 1968.

Since then he has traversed across the country wooing convention votes and winning the heart of young America. With the unexpected announcement of Lyndon Johnson not to seek another term, RFK became "the democrat most likely to be nominated."

"I want the democratic party to stand for hope," he stated. "For reality of the recent events in Vietnam has been glossed over with illusions. The report of the

riot commission has been largely ignored. The crisis in gold, the crisis in our cities, the crisis on our farms and in our ghettos, all have been met with too little and too late. We can do better and that is why I run."

Suggests bombing halt

Insisting that the South Vietnamese government play a larger part in the war, his suggestions that a bombing halt be called and negotiations started were met with cheers throughout his tour. When President Johnson moved in that direction, Kennedy praised his efforts and offered to help in any way that he could to aid in bringing peace to the country.

Kennedy also feels that we must recognize that the National Liberation Front is going to play a part in the future government of South Vietnam.

A wave of enthusiasm met him in Watts where, as in many under-privileged areas of the coun-

try, he stands for hope. One way to amend the racial problem, notes Kennedy, would be to offer bet-through the private sector. On the open housing issue, Kennedy flatly stated that if we are to ask any person to fight and die for this country, we should also be willing to have him choose wherever he would like to live.

U.S. richest country

Noting that we are the richest country in the world, Kennedy deplored the farm situation. He called for collective bargaining in the agricultural sector, access to reasonable low-interest credit, and tax incentives and credits to lure industry into rural America.

He adds that a national food reserve is needed for emergency use and to feed deprived citizens. A Harvard graduate, Kennedy's experience and personality have made him the only person who candidate in 1968 after LBJ's withdrawal. Johnson himself noted,

"Bobby Kennedy has been a candidate since the first day I sat here." A counsel to the Joe McCarthy investigations subcommittee and the later Army-McCarthy hearings in the middle 50's, service as Attorney General under his late brother, and his position as senator from the third largest state in the nation have given him political maturity that belie his 42 years. His physical appeal to a nation teeming with young blood and strong ideals is undeniable.

His spirit is that of America. With only praise for Senator Eugene McCarthy, Kennedy has said he will run not against but in conjunction with the Minnesota senator. But a confrontation is inevitable. And as one Washington correspondent has noted, both men stand for the same ideals, but America must decide if she wants a winner. Senator Kennedy is a winner.



Senator Robert F. Kennedy . . . heir apparent to the Democratic throne.

Gene McCarthy! he'll drive his own car to the August convention

by Jim Pederson
Junior Staff Writer

"The issue of the war in Vietnam is not a separate issue but is one which must be dealt with in the configuration of problems in which it occurs. It is within this context that I take the case to the people of the United States."

This is a statement issued by Senator Eugene McCarthy on November 30, 1967, when he announced his candidacy for the presidency.

Since then Sen. McCarthy has progressed through a campaign labeled a joke and a protest campaign, to the forefront of the fight for the Democratic presidential nomination.

McCarthy stunned the nation by polling 42% of the vote in the New Hampshire primary against incumbent President Lyndon Johnson, and followed up with 37% of the vote in the Wisconsin primary after President Johnson withdrew from the race.

The dignified and confident McCarthy has had great success in attracting young people. Nearly 20,000 students from surrounding states helped organize and work

his New Hampshire campaign, and are attributed with bringing about much of his success.

An experienced politician, McCarthy has served in the 81st, 82nd, 84th and 86th Congress, and has spent his last twelve years in the Senate representing his native state, Minnesota.

McCarthy has served as the chairman of the special committee on unemployment, and is presently serving on the Senate Finance committee and the Foreign Relations committee.

Senator McCarthy has based his campaign on the major issue confronting the United States today, the Vietnam war.

McCarthy has said that he feels the Vietnam policy is misconceived and contrary to the national interest, and that the only solution is to reverse military escalation and seek a negotiated political settlement.

In order to bring the Vietnam war to an honorable conclusion McCarthy proposes the following

—Stop the bombing of North Vietnam entirely and make a sincere attempt to negotiate.
—Stop offensive "search and

destroy" missions.

—Begin a phased drawback of American troops and a reduction in commitment to force the Saigon regime to take on more military responsibilities.

—Press Saigon authorities to bring representative civilians into the government and negotiate with the National Liberation Front. Any coalition should be decided by the Vietnamese people themselves.

McCarthy has linked his policies on inflation, taxes, city problems, civil rights, and the gold drain with the war in Vietnam.

McCarthy feels that the recent ten percent income tax surcharge request by the president was unwise, unfair, and ill-timed.

According to McCarthy the surcharge will not curtail the inflation which he asserts is stimulated directly by the Vietnam war.

Rising inflation, balance of payments crisis, and the gold drain are proportionate to the expenditures in Vietnam, McCarthy says.

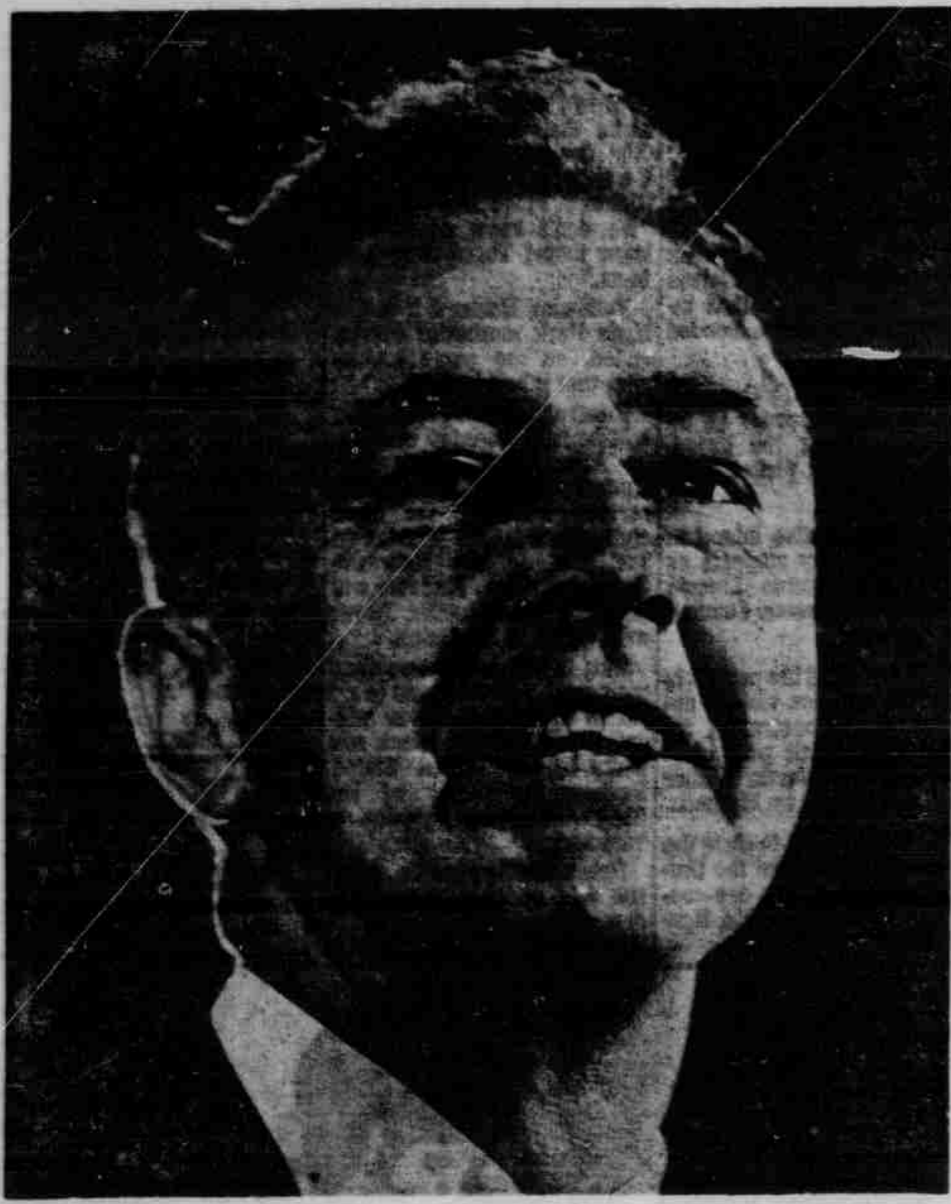
McCarthy feels that the elimination of slums and the creation of

a healthy environment in the cities is a necessity. We must establish a vigorous national housing program which will include a annual rehabilitation of living units, regardless of whether the nation is at war, according to McCarthy.

McCarthy has long been a supporter and sponsor of Civil Rights legislation including the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Right Act of 1965.

McCarthy claims that the time has come to define a civil rights program which would give Negroes these four guarantees: first, the right to education; second, the right to a job and decent recompense for work; third, the right to physical health and bodily security; and fourth, the right to decent housing.

In the light of recent violence in the cities, McCarthy feels that crime and rioting should be dealt with harshly and firmly. Yet there would not be such rioting, according to McCarthy if we alleviate the conditions in our cities of inadequate housing, limited job opportunities, and inadequate welfare programs.



Adlai all over again? To purists McCarthy's the man, but politics after all is a ruthless business.

Wallace presents third wheel to imbalance 1968 election

Racing from one engagement to the next on his campaign rounds, pumping hands always smiling, always confident — that is how one reporter has described former Gov. George C. Wallace.

Wallace, dissatisfied with the Democratic party platform, is heading the American Independent Party and hopes to win in a unique way. The third-party candidate seen by several political interpreters as a threat to poll enough votes to throw the November election to the House of Representatives where each state would have one vote in deciding the next president.

Should the election go to the House, Wallace could then use political sway with the Southern states and in the end be the sole determinant of who moves into the White House.

Wallace speaks of his own history at every opportunity: he is the son of a dirt farmer; he once drove a cab to help pay his college expenses; he married a dime-store clerk and that he is a part of the "common folks" toward who he directs his appeals.

The cigar-smoking Alabamian is not timid about expounding on any issue, but he does tend to shy away from for-

sign affairs and concentrate on domestic problems.

At the top of Wallace's black list is the American "social-liberalist press; the traitorous academic freedom boys" on college faculties who criticize the war; the Supreme Court "which doesn't have enough sense to try a chicken thief;" and the "high falutin' eggheads" who Wallace feels have infiltrated every level of federal government, usurping the powers that ought to be held at the local level by his "common folks."

Concerning Vietnam, he wants to turn the "war mess" over to the joint chiefs of Staff because there is too much interference from Washington politicians.

Besides assailing "treasonous" war dissenters, Wallace has advocated that we cut off all foreign aid to countries not in support of the American position in Vietnam.

The former governor of Alabama has a lingering reputation outside the South as a racist, but he tries to overcome this by saying that he feels "Alabama should be allowed to do what it wants and you folks up here should be allowed to do what you want."

Yet he has verbally assailed Negro rioters and he proposes to terminate free bus service for all Negro pupils to predominately white schools.

In Omaha last month, as the husband of Alabama's governor stepped off the plane surrounded by his own security guards, he was greeted with "black power" chanting of several young Negroes who had called to Wallace to shake their hands — and he did.

But Wallace said in Omaha that he has "never made a speech in his life that reflected on anyone's race, creed or color" and that "the overwhelming majority of Negroes are against a breakdown of law and order."

Among his other proposals, Wallace has said that he favors near-elimination of the foreign aid program, that he is ready to investigate the Peace Corps and that he would "eliminate this whole damn poverty program" which has reached its fullest proportions during the Johnson administration.

In a general summation, Wallace says he feels that "the solution to problems can best be found in an orderly

society within the context of free enterprise and free property systems which made our country."

Wallace lambasts the Democratic and Republican parties with, "Not a dime's worth of difference between them," while he praises "working people" and the police and cries out against street violence.

"George Wallace," said former CORE director James Farmer, "is a serious political candidate, an articulate, intelligent man who has a message to sell and is selling it very effectively."

But others are not so quick to agree, especially those in the two other parties.

Former Vice President Richard Nixon has said that Wallace's vote will not be significant in November, and current Vice President Hubert Humphrey was quoted, "If Wallace runs, all he'll get is exercise."

But according to John C. Twoley, a teacher in the Department of communication Arts at Notre Dame:

"Wallace is a former Golden Gloves champion, and he knows the value of swinging hard in the late rounds."

LBJ's surprise retreat leaves senators battling

"I shall not seek and I will not accept the nomination of my party for another term as your President . . ."

With those stunning words, Lyndon Baines Johnson, the 36th United States President dropped the political bombshell which threw the Democratic presidential race into a two-way confrontation.

By announcing his decision, which he said was "irrevocable," Johnson thus leaves Senators Robert Kennedy (N.Y.) and Eugene McCarthy (Minn.) in the race for the Democratic presidential bid.

"This change in American

politics began among the people. It was largely the expression of their will that changed the shape of American politics. Now they have a different choice to make," McCarthy said of the Texan's decision not to seek renomination.

Although Johnson had been elected in 1964 by the largest majority ever given a United States President, it was evident that growing foreign and domestic issues had dragged down his popularity.

Vietnam and crime in the nation's cities undoubtedly caused, in the opinions of

many political observers, Johnson's popularity to hit an all time low last week.

In a Gallup poll, just 36 per cent of those questioned approved of LBJ's conduct in the presidency and only 26 per cent approved of his conduct of the Vietnam war.

In the March 12 New Hampshire presidential primary, the nation's first vote, Johnson polled 50 per cent of the Democratic vote, while McCarthy tallied 42 per cent.

In the April 2 Wisconsin primary, two days after Johnson announced his unexpected move, McCarthy drew

57 per cent of the Democratic vote, Johnson achieved 35 per cent and Kennedy drew 6 per cent on a write-in campaign.

However, the first bona fide showdown between the two opposing senators will come at the May 7 Indiana presidential primary and the following week in Nebraska's all-star primary.

"Until Lyndon got out of it, it was like three-cushion billiards," McCarthy said after the Badger state's election.

"Bobby could hit me only if he banked it off Lyndon. It was a case of who could hit Lyndon most and he seemed to be winning. Now he will have to hit me directly."

In an effort to bring peace talks between the United States and North Vietnam, Johnson said in his speech last Sunday that he is halting nearly all air and sea action against North Vietnam.

In the annual State of the Union address to a joint session of Congress Jan. 17, the incumbent President touched on many of the problems, both domestic and foreign, that haunt this nation.



Retiring but hardly retreating . . . a younger President pumping hands on the campaign trail.