

KENNEDY VISITS VEGAS ON A FINAL CAMPAIGN PUSH

The saga of the Kennedy family is one that fascinates all Americans, regardless of political inclination. JFK's less than three-year presidency made a profound and lasting impact on the national psyche. For once, there was a president who did not act like Big Daddy but like a witty older brother. Robert Kennedy's transition from senate counsel for Joe McCarthy to a crusade for civil rights and against a mistaken war during one of our most troubled periods is also indelibly inscribed into our history. As are the tragic deaths of both brothers. Edward (Ted) Kennedy has had his own share of personal tragedy. Apart from the loss of his older brothers, he has suffered a near-fatal plane crash

and, of course, an auto accident eleven years ago, that claimed the life of one of his supporters. But Ted continues to display the wit and the dedication to liberalism that characterizes his family.

Senator Kennedy flew into Las Vegas last week on a final primary campaign push in his effort to wrest the Democratic presidential nomination from Jimmy Carter. In a free-wheeling press conference at McCarran International Airport (during which Kennedy made national reporters defer to the local press), the candidate answered questions about the MX missile system (he's for submarine-based missiles, instead of land-based ones), about Nevada's place in national events

("You're very important to us") and about the election year in general. Asked about independent John Anderson's campaign for the presidency, Kennedy stated that the Illinois congressman "has conducted himself very well...if I am the Democratic nominee," added the senator. "I feel that he would not pursue his campaign." Kennedy refused to elaborate on this "feeling"...the implication was clearly that he perceives his and Anderson's positions on the issues as being so close that he believes Anderson could support him. Asked if he could support Anderson if the Democratic convention chooses Carter, Kennedy answered in the negative...any other answer at this point in the campaign would surely

have had a disruptive effect on Kennedy's chances and on his part.

Kennedy is chairman of a senate committee that oversees, among other things, immigration policy...and in Las Vegas he reaffirmed his strong support for a saner immigration policy, including bringing order to the Cuban influx and granting Haitians who have fled to this country refugee status comparable to that of the Cubans.

From the airport, Kennedy and his press entourage (which included Catherine Mackin of ABC-TV news) motorcaded to the Rancho Circle home of Virginia Mallin, where hundreds of guests, most of whom had paid \$230 per couple, ate gourmet hors d'oeuvres

and shook hands with the senator. Those present included Southern Nevada Kennedy campaign chairman James Bilbray, TV personality Kerin Scianna, Lt. Governor Myron Leavitt, Democratic National Committeewoman Didi Carson, Clark County Democratic chairman Charles Waterman, La Strada Restaurant owner Maria Marka, LAS VEGAS MIRROR general manager Ralph Petillo. The Mallin home was a lovely setting as the senator spoke inspiringly of how to keep alive the American dream and not give in to doom-sayers, of how to keep a strong but also a humanitarian nation. (The Nevada primary will be held on May 27.)

N.H.



Senator Ted Kennedy was besieged by a group of well wishers.

Among the many notables attending the reception at Virginia Mallin's posh Rancho Circle home were Rachel and Curtis Coleman.

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