
Carter-Kennedy battle threatening party

Political observers are predicting that the Carter-Kennedy battle for the Democratic nomination will be more than a "bruising battle."

Serious fissures and factionalizations similar to those that tore the Democratic party apart in 1968 and 1972 are already emerging on both the national and local levels under the impact of the Carter-Kennedy fight.

* In Chicago, old-line "Daley machine" Democrats are fuming at Mayor Jane Byrne for ramming through a resolution committing the Cook County delegation to the party's national convention to Kennedy. Said one following the Nov. 5 meeting—which Byrne and Cook County Democratic party chairman George Dunne had packed with pro-Kennedy newcomers: "This means the party will be ripped to shreds."

* While some liberal union leaders like the United Rubber Workers Peter Bonmarito have encouraged Kennedy's presidential bid, strong opposition to the Massachusetts senator's candidacy has developed among the AFL-CIO bureaucracy. The building trades, in particular, are not taking too kindly to the fact that certain Kennedy economic advisers, including George Perry of the Brookings Institution, support repeal of the Davis-Bacon act, which guarantees wage levels in the construction industry.

* Within the so-called Jackson-Moynihan wing of the Democratic party, there is much talk of crossovers to the Republican presidential candidate, whoever that may be. Syndicated columnists Evans and Novak, writ-

ing in the Nov. 7 *Washington Post*, reported that the Coalition for a Democratic Majority (CDM), a group formed by Democratic party centrists, including Senators Henry Jackson and Hubert Humphrey in response to the McGovern takeover of the party in 1972, are worried that Kennedy will not abandon the "left wing" of the party. They are therefore looking to desert.

Midge Decter, a contributing editor of the American Jewish Committee's *Commentary* magazine and a power in the CDM, confirmed the Evans and Novak report. "Nobody in the party believes anything Carter says anymore, and I've given up hope that Kennedy will move toward a stronger prodefense posture. If either is nominated, there'll be a lot of homeless Democrats looking for a Republican to support. Most of us in the CDM are resigned to voting Republican. My own personal preference is either (George) Bush or (Howard) Baker."

Hoyt Ammidon, chairman of the board of the United States Trust Company said in an interview this week: "It's perfectly possible that the Democrats will rip themselves to shreds during the primaries. We're rather counting on it..." The "we" Ammidon was referring to is the British-based Ditchley Foundation, for which Ammidon is the president of the American branch.

Ammidon predicted that "if Kennedy loses to Carter, there's a good chance he will not support Carter for re-election." Describing himself as a "closer, personal friend of John Connally," Ammidon said he favored either Bush or Connally for the GOP nomination. "It's too bad we can't nominate our presidents instead of electing them," he said. "I would much prefer Bush, but I don't know if he can develop the charisma necessary to carry an election. If not, we'll have to go with John (Connally)."

—Kathy Murphy