

June 2, 1960

For Democrats this is an especially important year. For almost eight years our country has failed to respond adequately to the great challenges and opportunities of our times, both at home and around the world. Firm and full-time leadership must be provided to reverse the drift and relative decline of our nation. We have the opportunity to provide that kind of leadership. I am making my choice now because I believe that after the debacle at the Summit the people of the United States are anxious to feel secure that the next Administration will engage in total, tough-minded pursuit of a lasting and honorable peace, and at the same time encourage a life of dignity and abundance at home.

Senator Kennedy is my choice for President of the United States. He knows what America wants and knows how to get it. His vision of an ever greater America and his understanding of a world in revolution are matched by his courage in facing up to tough problems and by his ability to come up with specific, practical answers for action.

Furthermore, he has demonstrated that he inspires people to confidence in his leadership, and he brings from them a willingness to do the things that have to be done. He is a liberal Democrat, dedicated in the great tradition of Democratic liberalism to the expansion of opportunity and freedom for people everywhere.

His Administration will be intellectually dynamic and spiritually dedicated. I have every confidence that when he is President, he will revitalize our government, renew our sense of national purpose, and restore our zest for tackling the big challenges of this new decade.

As President, John Kennedy will shape events rather than let events shape him. He will take Khrushchev and building a better America in his stride just as he took the challenging primaries in Wisconsin, West Virginia and Oregon, where the odds at first seemed all against him.

On stage Kennedy is perceptive, resourceful, incisive. He makes the most of every situation. His success however is not due merely to his charm and virtuosity in action. It is due to his thorough "homework", his detailed planning, his organizational and executive ability.

Whatever the situation confronting him, by the time he engages the issue the battle is fought on his chosen grounds, at his convenience, and to his advantage. This is why he wins. This is how he gets things done.

And so it will be for America with Kennedy as President. There will be no more Summits called by Khrushchev, at a time set by DeGaulle, on a plan worked out by MacMillan, with pre-Summit fumbles by America, and with failure for all. We can be very sure with Kennedy as President that he would, in cooperation with our Allies, set the stage, prepare the script, and have a successful production -- for America and for the whole world.

Kennedy will grasp successfully the nettle of an inspection-controlled mutual disarmament. He will promote practical steps toward strengthening the United Nations, and toward achieving peace and a rule of world law.

At home he will pursue the specifics of human dignity consonant with morality, the Declaration of Independence, and the Constitution. He will promote a growth economy. He will look to the material and spiritual welfare of our people, recognizing the right of every person to health and the full development and enjoyment of his own potentiality in a culture of abundance.

More than any man in America Kennedy combines the ability to see the challenges and opportunities in our world today and to do something about them with the support of the people. He will, I believe, inspire and regenerate America.

Kennedy is a seer, a doer, and a mover of men.

That is why I am for him for President.