

U. S. SENATOR...



JOHN F. KENNEDY
FOR PRESIDENT



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September 6, 1960

Mrs. Jane Tolmach, Chairman
Ventura County Democratic Committee

Oxnard, California

Dear Mrs. Tolmach:

I have prepared a compilation of statements on issues involving the religion question so that we might all have conveniently in one memo many of the important statements that Senator Kennedy has made on this subject.

I am sure you have already found, as those of us involved in the primaries found, that there are many people whose interest in the religion question is born of a genuine desire to make a judgement based on the facts.

We found at the outset in West Virginia that the problem of Senator Kennedy's religion was acute and that we initially ran considerably behind because of this issue. However, after the issue was met forthrightly and Senator Kennedy spoke out and conveyed his convictions on this subject there was a tremendous switch in voter sentiment. We found that by a vigorous but sympathetic effort, people can be convinced.

We have set up a community relations committee headed by Mr. James W. Wine, former Associate General Secretary of the Council of Churches. The committee is located at 1801 K Street, Room 205, and is available to assist in helping to answer any questions that might arise in this field and to give suggestions as to how the subject can be approached most effectively.

I am sure that we all agree that if we retain a courteous and understanding attitude and a willingness to answer all questions on this issue that we will have the same result in November that we had in West Virginia, and that the so-called religious issue will evaporate. You are free to duplicate this memorandum for general use if you desire.

If I personally can be of any assistance in this matter, let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert F. Kennedy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Robert F. Kennedy

RFK/jm