

Portland Kennedy fans advocate 'run for Teddy'

By KEVIN HARDEN
Of the Emerald

When Bill Garrett says he wants Ted Kennedy to run, he means it. And run is just what Garrett and nearly a hundred other Kennedy supporters plan to do.

Garrett, the head of the Portland-based Ready For Teddy Committee, a campaign designed to draft Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., for the 1980 Democratic nomination for president, said in Eugene Monday afternoon that he has plans for several mile runs to raise money for the Kennedy cause and show support for the still-undecided candidate.

The first Run for Teddy is scheduled for Aug. 18 in Portland's Waterfront Park. It will be an unusual run, Garrett explained, because there will be a place for both runners and non-runners.

The run will be either two or five miles in length, with a beer garden and food concession set up in the middle of the field for those who "won't run until Ted does," Garrett said.

If the run is successful, Garrett plans to hold similar events in Eugene, San Francisco and Los Angeles. So far only 75 people have signed up to run, with an unknown number of non-runners waiting for the event, Garrett said.

Garrett told a small gathering of the Lane County DemoForum that no matter what happens at the run, his campaign is well on the way to raising the necessary \$5,000 to place Kennedy's

name on the Oregon primary election ballot next May.

Support for the movement is building along the West Coast so fast that many volunteers have trouble finding places to fit, Garrett said.

"It's a very grassroots movement here on the West Coast," he said. "It's more the voice of the people than it is the voice of the establishment calling for his candidacy."

Garrett warned, however, that despite the growing support for a Kennedy candidacy, Kennedy should not be expected to challenge Pres. Jimmy Carter directly. Kennedy should wait until Carter's popularity drops even lower or until the president drops out of the race, he said.

"If Pres. Carter's popularity comes up, then I don't think Kennedy will run. But the way things are going, I don't think that will happen."

Kennedy has had no part in the campaign, Garrett said, and that's the way it will stay until he formally declares for the nomination. Aside from occasional encouragement from the senator, Garrett's group has no other contact with Kennedy.

But, Garrett said, as each candidate appears on the political scene, Kennedy remains the only one with the leadership qualities necessary to run the country.

"Kennedy is the one candidate who can assert his leadership and his ability in the wave of so-called conservatism that has swept the congress," Garrett said.

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