

Matter of Fact By Joseph Alsop

THE KENNEDY QUESTION

Milwaukee — What may be called the Kennedy Question is now the most interesting, or at least the most puzzling, question in American politics. Unless the opinion polls are totally misleading, millions of Americans are eager to elect this still young, still incompletely tested man to the Presidency. But why?

To be sure, John F. Kennedy is no dully ordinary, ordinary ambitious politician. Admiration or envy, or both, are equally inspired by his war record and his wife, his fortune and his appearance, his public charm and his private capacity for unlimited, grim, hard work. When there is so much to envy or admire, the result is a kind of glamor, no less real because it is indefinable.

All the same, one suspects that Alcibiades — even the Alcibiades of the great years before the fleet of Athens set sail for Syracuse — would not have appealed greatly to American voters. He might have succeeded in the movies, but hardly in the Senate. In short, the Kennedy glamor, while it may highlight his other political qualities, is not the answer to the Kennedy Question.

TO TRY to find the answer, this reporter came out here to Wisconsin, where Kennedy has been looking over the ground in preparation for the crucial Democratic primary. The two-and-a-half-day barnstorming tour was a grueling business. The pace was breathless. The crowds were stifling. And when Kennedy and his beautiful wife escaped the crowds, covets of politicians descended upon them.

Kennedy positively seemed to enjoy it; but that is a usual requirement for a successful candidate. With the exception of a shrewd discussion of the great contest for Asia, Kennedy's speeches were also usual enough, at least in content, Republican sins, Democratic virtues, the needs of

the old, the hopes of the young and the challenge of the age were the topics.

But the style of the speeches was not at all usual, to begin with. When Kennedy rises to speak, he seems angular and tense, despite the disarming grin. At first you think of an earnest, high school valedictorian. Yet he is eloquent, decidedly eloquent; his is a highly literate eloquence, too, with an odd reminiscence of Adlai Stevenson. In a single speech, before a university audience to be sure, he quoted Bismarck, Goethe, Swift, John Quincy Adams, Clay, Calhoun, Thomas Hart Benton and Queen Victoria. And then, as though to show he could do just as well without advance preparation, he added a verse by Robert Frost and a quotation from Winston Churchill in the question period.

Furthermore, this odd, jerky, almost aggressively literate Kennedy eloquence can be exceedingly moving on occasion. When he was talking about the right attitude to the harsh perils of our time, he told the same university audience about the darkening of the sun, which led the good people of eighteenth-century Hartford, Conn., to think the day of judgment was at hand. The Legislature was sitting in Hartford. The Speaker of the House stilled the commotion by declaring that the darkness did not matter unless it announced the world's end; and if the world was indeed ending, he chose to meet his Maker while doing his duty. "I ask that candles may be brought," the old man concluded, "so that this house can continue its business." When Kennedy spoke that culminating line, it made the short hairs prickle on the neck.

NOR is the peculiar Kennedy style the only unusual feature of his public performance. The twin themes that recur in almost all his speeches are not exactly usual either, at least among politicians. The first is the theme of deep respect for the intellect and even for intellectuals (which is not surprising, considering Kennedy's huge private stable of

Try and Stop Me

By BENNETT CERF

HILLBILLY and his 10-year-old son came down to a big city for the first time. The boy was thunderstruck by what he saw, and asked countless questions, not a single one of which his father could answer. Finally, the boy said, "Paw, I'm sorry if I'm so dumb. Hope you don't mind me asking all these fool questions."

"Go right ahead, son," said his father heartily. "That's the only way you'll ever learn things!"

A wit in Rome bought two chariots from MGM when the filming of "Ben Hur" had been completed—and installed them in the garden of his estate. One chariot is marked "His" and the other "Hurs."

Cedric Adams wonders why nobody's commented on the fact that Brigitte Bardot's brother is a famous band leader. His first name, of course, is Guylum.

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Editorial Comment

AN IDEA THEY'LL NEVER GIVE UP

Recently The Journal has jousted with several upstate editors on the question of "who hates whom" as between Portland and the rest of Oregon.

We have now become convinced some of these gentle-

men have such a good thing in perpetuating the myth that Portlanders look down upon and seek to exploit upstaters they will never give it up.

There is also treasure to be had among their readers, they believe, in displaying a sort of half-contempt, half-pity for those benighted city-bound people.

They like to use the words "hicks" and "sticks" as applied to themselves, with the implication these are a part of the city dweller's vocabulary. The fact is, we never hear city people use them. The only time we ever see them is in the writings of the upstaters.

Eric Allen Jr. of the Medford Mail Tribune quotes an extreme letter allegedly written by a Portlander to the Bend Bulletin which talks of "hick towns," "hick editors" and "hayseeds." Its wording is such that we suspect it of being a phony or a plant.

As we said, we've abandoned hope of "converting" these editors, but there's one point we'd like to impress upon Allen, who referred to Sherman County Journal Editor Giles French's piece about Portland as the thing which started all this flurry.

French's prejudice is not just against Portland, it's against all western Oregon. He probably doesn't think much more of Medford than he does of Portland. So there!—Oregon Journal, Portland.

The note is unexpected, at least in a Presidential candidate in a period of flaccid outward complacency. The performance, over all, is quite impressive enough to explain why Kennedy has become a very serious candidate indeed, in the past two years, but it remains for Kennedy to outline his new ideas for meeting the new challenge which he so starkly and stirringly portrays.

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egghead consultants). "What we need now in this nation most of all is a constant flow of new ideas. . . . We cannot obtain new ideas until we have a government, and a public opinion which respect new ideas and the people who have them. . . . Our country has surmounted great crises in the past, not because of our wealth, not because of our rhetoric, not because we had longer cars and whiter ice boxes and bigger television screens than any one else, but because our ideas were more compelling, and more penetrating, and more wise and more enduring."

These are typical sentences on the first theme. The other theme is the gravity and novelty of the problems now confronting the United States. The following sentences are representative: "For now the age of consolidation is over, and once again the age of change and challenge has come upon us. . . . The next year, the next decade, in all likelihood the next generation, will require more bravery and more wisdom on our part than any period in our history. We will be face to face, every day, in every part of our lives and times, with the real issue of our age — the issue of survival."

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Civilian, Domestic Programs Said Behind Heavy Spending

By STANLEY C. HOPE

President, National Association of Manufacturers

New York — If you were to stop the next man you see on the street and ask him why the federal government is spending so much money, he probably would blame it all on the cold war and our need for strong national defense.

This is quite a natural assumption, for we are spending billions upon billions to keep our military might second to none. And rightly so.

But if you will dig into the federal budget figures, you will find some startling facts. You will find that defense is not responsible for the major gains in federal spending in recent years; rather, it is the civilian and domestic programs. Here are the figures:

From 1955 to 1959 military spending increased \$5.5 billion, but non-military spending zoomed \$10.9 billion — about twice as much.

This huge increase of \$10.9 billion — that's more than it cost to run the entire federal government in 1940 — went for such things as billions for:

grants-in-aid to the states; supporting the price of farm products; public housing; airports, rivers and harbors; holding down farm acreage; soil conservation and veterans' hospitalization.

Yes, the multitude of federal departments and agencies are costing more and more. They're starting more welfare programs, hiring more people to run them, and spending billions to help relatively small groups of citizens at the expense of all taxpayers. And the Congress often even increases the budget requests of the agencies.

A searching study of the 1960 budget made by the Government Economy Committee of the National Association of Manufacturers offers convincing evidence that it can be trimmed \$3 billion under the President's \$77 billion level without placing it in the "austerity" category. And this without even touching military expenditures.

Here are a few of the major cuts the NAM proposes: in agricultural price supports, \$490 million; rural electrifi-

cation programs, \$335 million; public assistance, \$203 million; soil conservation, \$456 million; veterans' hospitalization, \$250 million.

You may say, "veterans deserve the best hospital care possible." But did you know that almost two-thirds of all the patients in Veterans Administration hospitals are receiving care and treatment for illnesses and disabilities not related to their military service?

And you may say, "soil conservation is a good thing, too." But did you know that the federal government has three separate soil conservation programs and that they have been allotted a total of \$701 million for fiscal 1960? For years, the duplication of over-lapping of two of these agencies have been pointed out. Consolidation is in order, but the spending goes on and on.

These are just a couple of examples of how your tax money is being spent inefficiently and ineffectively.

More Government Growth All of us should realize that the government gets bigger and bigger only at the expense of the private economy. And one of the major questions facing us today is whether we, as a nation, want to have more government growth — or more economic growth.

What this growing nation needs is more business, not more government. We need the things that business creates — more jobs, more goods, more incomes, more opportunities.

These good things are within our reach. To obtain them we must put the brake on government spending. One of the best ways to do this is to provide forward-scheduling of tax rate reform as provided in the Herlong-Baker bills. This legislation would force the legislators in Washington to be more careful of our tax dollars.

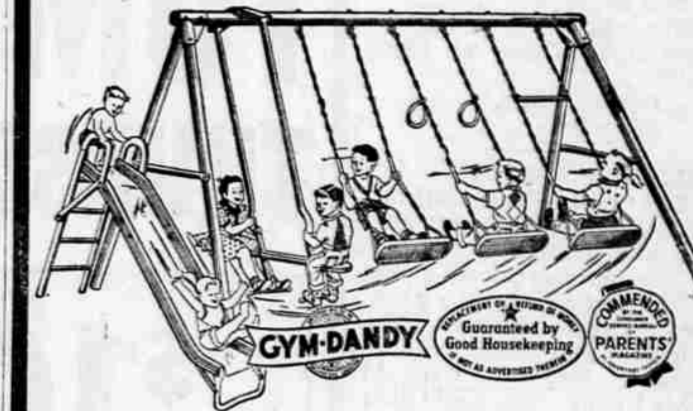
But if government economy and tax reform are to come about, we citizens must speak our minds. We must let our Senators and congressmen know that we are dead set against letting the federal spending tide engulf our economy.

KING VISITS NEW YORK

New York — King Hussein of Jordan visits the Empire State Building and United Nations headquarters as part of a crowded schedule of activities today.

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Open House Set at H. P. Jewett School

Central Point — The annual open house will be held at H. P. Jewett school, Central Point, starting at 6:30 p.m. Thursday.

Classrooms will be open between 6:30 and 8 p.m. for parents to meet teachers. The Parent Teacher association will sell pie, cake and coffee.

A musical program of singing, rhythm band and numbers will be presented by first and second grade pupils at 8 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Mrs. Jeanne Carothers will direct the group.

90 Per Cent of Crashes Involve Law Violation

"Traffic law violators are accident makers," Chief of Police Charles R. Champlin said today.

He added that approximately 90 per cent of all accidents involve a violation of traffic law on the part of at least one of the drivers involved.

These records, the chief said, prove that traffic accidents don't "just happen," they are caused.

Chief Champlin said that law enforcement agencies alone cannot do the job of reducing accidents. "We need the support of the whole community in building greater respect for traffic laws," he added.

"Unfortunately," he said, "too many drivers think of traffic law violations in terms of traffic fines rather than in terms of death or injury."

Deaths and injuries in Oregon would be reduced sharply if every driver and pedestrian would accept responsibility to know the traffic laws and to comply with them, he added.

SOC Head Attends SF Conference

Ashland — Dr. Elmo N. Stevenson, Southern Oregon college president, attended a regional workshop on "Quality and Opportunity in Higher Education" April 9-10 in San Francisco.

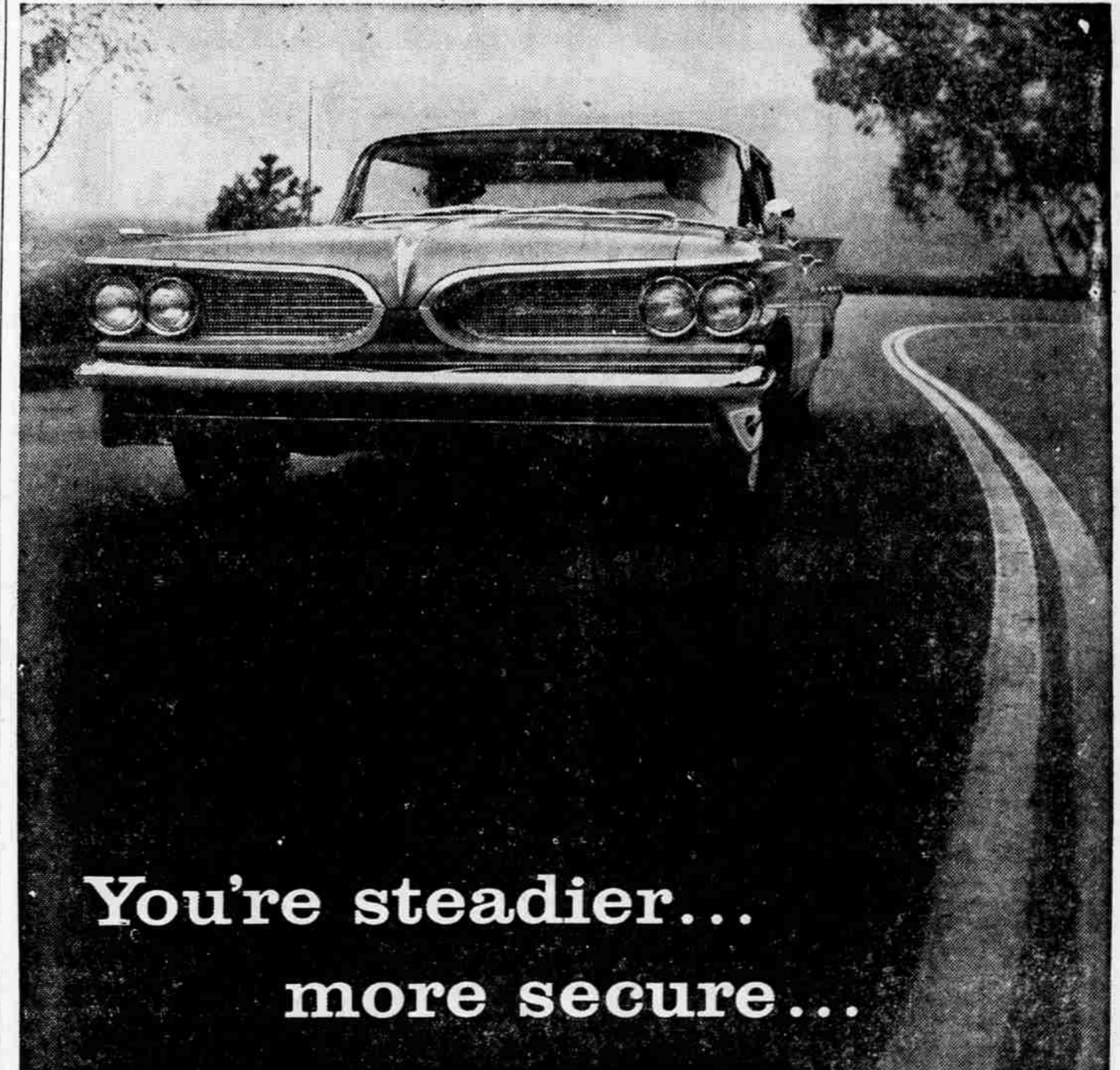
Attending were more than 200 governors, state legislators, college and university presidents, and other state officials from 13 Western states, including Alaska and Hawaii.

Governors Albert D. Rosellini of Washington, Grant E. Sawyer of Nevada, and Robert E. Smylie of Idaho presided and spoke at sessions. Sponsored by the Western Governors' Conference, the Council of State Governments and the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, the workshop was the second annual meeting of western leaders in state government and higher education to discuss the problems facing public universities and colleges in the region.

Featured speakers included Dr. Alvin C. Eurich, vice president of the Fund for the Advancement of Education, and Fred M. Hechinger, newspaper publisher and author of "The Big Red School House," a study of Russian education today.

The workshop was preceded by a one-day session on "The Budget Process in State Colleges and Universities," which considered the uses and limitations of "formulas" in assigning funds to public higher educational institutions. State executive and legislative budget experts from 13 Western states attended.

NAMED MISS ENGLAND London — (UPI) — Drama student Pamela Searle, a 21-year-old beauty with 36-24-37 measurements, won the Miss England title Tuesday night.



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