

On the Timid Initiatives in Robert Kennedy's New Foreign Policy Speech

The Dogmas of the China Lobby Are Stronger Than the Voice of Rome

Senator Robert Kennedy's speech last Wednesday on foreign policy begins to thaw a little some of the frozen postures of U.S. policy. But it is disappointing that a young Senator, seeking to establish himself as a fresh and liberal voice in the field of foreign policy, is so reluctant to speak plainly. One wry sidelight is provided by his proposal that we support "family planning" for India. The Senator was not afraid to differ with the Pope on birth control, but he doesn't have the nerve to agree with the Pope's recent plea that UN membership be extended to all the nations now outside it. This was interpreted, without denial, as support for China's admission. But Kennedy went no farther than gingerly to suggest that we "explore new avenues of approach to the question of Communist China" and invite Peking to join in the disarmament talks. It is striking that not a single American Roman Catholic voice of any weight has dared support the Pope on this issue, or even discuss what he said. The dogmas of our China Lobby seem to be more sacrosanct than the voice of Rome.

Time to Call A Fraud A Fraud

Reluctance to speak plainly, was most evident in the most important part of the speech, which dealt with nuclear proliferation. The obstacle is our attempt to get the Soviet Union to sign a treaty against nuclear proliferation while giving the Germans a finger on the nuclear trigger. The Germans want this, and the Russians fear it, for the same reason: both see it as a first step toward making Germany a nuclear power. Kennedy suggests that all the nations concerned "rethink their positions."

This is all to the good, but it would be even better if the Senator talked frankly. The U.S. treaty is a fraud. It is a fraud on the Germans as well as the Russians because it provides for something no U.S. Senate is ever likely to agree to. There is not space here to go into the intricacies of this tricky treaty. But by its terms the only way the Germans could get what they want is if we or the British or the French agreed to merge nuclear forces with a European force in which Germany participated and give up any veto over the use of the nuclear weapon. No U.S. Senate would ever give up control over such life-and-death decisions for this country. The British and the French are no more disposed to do so. We only whet German appetite with something we would

Speaking of Inhumanity

"Man, though he may be accused of inhumanity by waging war, has nevertheless sought throughout history to establish certain rules of conduct which would distinguish him from the beast. The prevailing code is incorporated in the Geneva Convention. North Vietnam, a party to this convention, has shamelessly and publicly violated it by executing two more uniformed American soldiers. Its conduct once more reveals the ugly nature of the enemy."

—N. Y. Herald Tribune, Sept. 29.

"We just rode Nuongs. You can tell that by the wire here," he said. 'Why?' he was asked. Nuongs are Chinese mercenaries from Formosa. A battalion of them are in Vietnam, collecting good salaries fighting for the Saigon government. One of them works as a guard at the United States embassy in Saigon. 'They always want the wire for the prisoners,' the kid said, 'Don't you know that? They get a VC and make him hold his hands against his cheeks. Then they take this wire and run it through the one hand and right through his cheek and into his mouth. Then they pull the wire out through the other cheek and stick it through the other hand. They knot both ends around sticks. You never seen them with prisoners like that? Oh, you ought to see how quiet them gooks sit in a helicopter when we get them wrapped up like that.'

—Jimmy Breslin, Danang, opposite page, same day.

never give them anyway.

Kennedy is fond of using urgent quotations from the late President, his brother, but his own proposals fall far short of the fresh thinking required. In discussing the need for a treaty to ban all underground tests, he sticks to the conventional State Department position on inspections, though technological progress has made detection possible down to magnitudes too small to be of any military significance. The main element missing in the speech, which ranges widely but timidly over many questions, is Vietnam. There can be no new approaches to Peking, no new agreement with Moscow, while we humiliate both by slowly bombing one of their satellites to pieces. Here, too, he did not dare follow the Pope's plea that all human quarrels be settled "not by violence, not by war." Even our devout seem more awed by the B-52 than the Cross.

How We Shot A Loyal Deaf Mute Boy And Then Listed Him As A Captured Viet Cong

"Saigon—However well the war is going at the moment, the American high command seems unable to speak with candor on battle activity, even after the battle is over.

"In a routine resupply of a company by two armored tractors carrying ten men, the first Amtrac ran over a Vietcong mine and blew up. Of the four men on the lead Amtrac, one burned to death in the resulting fire and the other three were burned or wounded. In retrieving the burned ones from the Amtrac, the crew of the second Amtrac and a handful of other Marines were clustered together. And a second mine was detonated electrically by a lurking Vietcong. Four more Marines were wounded . . . But the action was not even in the Marine Headquarters nightly communique to the press. It was added in a supplementary paragraph only after this correspondent,

having witnessed the incident, complained. In the belated codicil, casualties were described as light. Eight men dead or wounded out of about 15 Marines involved! . . .

"Even more evasive in the same communique was this item: 'One Vietcong was captured five miles southeast of Danang late today (Sept. 16). After two attempts to escape, a Marine shot him in the leg. He was evacuated and given military aid.' Fact is, this is not the version given to me by the captain in charge of intelligence for the Marine unit involved. The village chief—the government representative whom the Marines were guarding against Vietcong assassination—identified the boy after the shooting as not a Vietcong. He was a deaf-mute son of a loyal village couple."

—Jack Foisie, Los Angeles Times, Oct. 3.

HEW and Justice Department Dragging Their Heels on Equal Rights

(Continued from Page One)

jungle in which the Negro and his white sympathizers are fair game for any white hunter. The Haynesville, Ala., trial in which the slayer of Jonathan Daniels was acquitted is only the latest in such denials of justice. More offensive than the crass injustice was the complacency of Attorney General Katzenbach in commenting on the acquittal, "This is the price you have to pay for the jury system, but I don't think it is too high a price to pay." The jury system is supposed to represent the community. These lily-white Southern juries merely represent the white supremacists. More than 75% of the people in Lowndes County, where the trial took place, are Negroes, but Negroes rarely serve on juries there. How can the Attorney General be so smug?

Katzenbach's Reluctant Registrars

It was not surprising to find that Katzenbach was the target of angry criticism at the long promised hearing before the "Special Equal Rights Committee" of the Democratic National Committee here a week ago. Every Negro group from the Urban League on the right to the MFDP on the left agreed for once—in criticizing the Attorney General's reluctance to send Federal registrars into the South. Clarence Mitchell of the NAACP complained that he had personally sent more than 500 voter registration complaints to Katzenbach in the past two months with little result. Though the necessary number of complaints has been filed from half of Mississippi's 82 counties, registrars have been sent only to nine. Joseph L. Rauh, Jr., of ADA, himself a member of the hearing committee, told reporters afterward that Katzenbach is opposed to Federal registrars on principle. "He was dragged in kicking and screaming to the acceptance of registrars," Rauh said. Though their appointment was advocated by the Civil Rights Commission as early as 1960, Justice Department held out against them until the murder of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo left it no choice.

The Justice Department is dragging its heels on voter registrars while the Department of Health, Education and Welfare is dragging its heels on the power given it to enforce school desegregation by cutting off school funds. Where

Only in America

"Birmingham, Ala.—A traffic accident in which a Negro man was left at the scene by a white ambulance driver has prompted a Birmingham City Council vote to strike a race clause from city ambulance contracts coming up for renewal Tuesday. Officials said the driver, Owen Telleit, refused to take the victim, Joe Bruce, 63, a Negro, to a hospital after Bruce's legs were severed in an automobile accident Wednesday. Bruce died later. The manager of the ambulance service, Ed Emmett, said Telleit had been fired because of the incident. The clause the council decided to strike from the new contracts states that the white ambulance service is not obligated to pick up Negroes. A contract with a Negro ambulance service stated it was not obligated to pick up whites."

—Though this was an AP dispatch the only paper in which we saw it was the York, Pa., Gazette. Most papers didn't seem to think it newsworthy.

white racists in the North, as in Chicago, put on the heat, the Department quickly caves in. But all over the South it has ignored Negro protests and accepted not only "tokenism" but "freedom of choice" plans that continue segregation. This is what lies behind the Crawfordsville, Georgia, demonstrations. There the whites have "freedom of choice" to attend all-white schools outside the county while the Negroes have "freedom of choice" to go on attending rundown Negro schools. But HEW is still "studying" the situation. The Department announced with fanfare that all but 80 of the 5,000 Southern school districts had begun desegregation. But a detailed study by SNCC shows that 92% of all Negro children in the 11 Southern States are still attending segregated schools. Negroes are being shot at, losing jobs and beaten up for trying to attend white schools, as they are for trying to register, yet somehow HEW and Justice do little more than "study" these situations. The black man can study, too. He knows from a century of experience the capacity of white supremacists to nullify equal rights legislation. A volcanic bitterness is building up. U.S. troops, instead of being in Vietnam, ought to be protecting Negroes trying to register and to attend integrated schools. This would really be enforcing self-determination.

In Reply to Friendly Inquiries: Dr. Samuel Rosen's mobilization of stapes operation miraculously restored hearing in my left ear as it did last year in my right.—IFS

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