

DEBORAH KEARNEY

April 9, 1985

Ran into Debra Kearney and we had a talk re. Kerry. She is an advisor, and it's not clear how long she'll stay. She's helping him get settled.

Every member of his staff comes from Massachusetts and the campaign. "I'm the outsider. I didn't work for Kerry. Paul didn't want us to get actively involved; but most for Shannon. They don't know what to make of me. I don't blame them--they worked their butts off. But they need me to save them from mistakes. They have no idea what it's like here or how to get things done. Some of them are disillusioned already. "Is this all there is? They expected more glamour--you know 'Here we are in the Senate?' We don't even have an office yet. They want a bigger one than this. The thing they can't figure out about me is 'how come you know so many people.' Howard Metzenbaum came by to say hello to me. They couldn't believe it."

Debra was at one and the same time telling me that she was important and that the shakedown in terms of *turf* was still under way in the office. I predicted that half the staff would be gone in a year.

"Their styles are so different. With Paul, it was the 'open door.' Anyone could get to see him. He would wander around and we'd have to say 'why don't you get out of here so we can get some work done.' With Kerry it is much more formal. They began answering the phone "Senator Kerry's office." I suggested they be more informal. 'John Kerry's office.' They do that now. The AA sits right outside his door and everyone has to go through him. One night we were at a party and John said to me: "Debra I learn a lot from talking with you." I said 'John, why don't you try it in the office sometime.' He smiled. He knew what I meant. Right now he's so full of himself as a Senator. It's what he has wanted all his life; and he's so happy. He looks like a Senator. But

he's also insecure. He knows he's being compared with Paul Tsongas and he knows how smart Paul was. He's been a little afraid to associate with Paul--which is silly. A couple of weeks ago I got them together and they had a long talk. And the next day they had lunch. He shouldn't be afraid to say to Paul 'what do you think I ought to do about such and such.' Paul isn't going to blab to the newspapers. That's another thing. They think the Globe gave them a very hard time--the Globe was Shannon, Shannon, Shannon. They are mad as hell at the Globe. I tell them, it's over now--a clean slate. They need you as much as you need them. So I've been trying to get John to sit down with Kirk O'Donnell just to get acquainted and talk. They don't want to do it. John's strength is that he will listen to others. In confrontation, he's very patient. With the 'Right to Lifers', he was amazingly good. They were very hostile; he didn't change his views; but he listened; and he wanted to meet with them. He will find himself gradually.

A nice story about institution and personality. "The first thing John wanted was to have his office right across the hall from Ted Kennedy's. They all thought that would be wonderful. I said, 'My God. In everything you do, they're going to be comparing you to Ted Kennedy.' You're just going to make comparison that much easier. 'Suppose some constituents come to see you and you say, John is just too busy on the floor and then they see ^{may have} Ted Kennedy walking out of his office.' They said that Paul Tsongas ^{may have} felt the comparison with Kennedy but they would not. John said he wanted to co-sponsor as many bills with Kennedy as they could. I said 'Are you crazy?' Every bill you co-sponsor, Kennedy will snatch it away from you so fast you won't know what hit you. ^z The Kennedy staff is the most aggressive staff on Capitol Hill. They said that ^{but} Paul Tsongas may have had that trouble, they wouldn't. I said 'No, when you come

from Massachusetts there will always be Ted Kennedy and the other Senator. You've got to make it on your own and find your own identity.'

"There will never be another Paul. Sometimes we all say 'Paul Tsongas, why did you do this to us?'"