

PAUL TSONGAS

December 1, 1982

I walk over to floor with him while he makes speech vs. S995 - in lame duck session.

He's shocked by big <sup>news</sup> ~~ness~~ of day that Kennedy will not run in 1984.

"You picked quite a day to come here. I was in Colorado and just got back last night. The phone was ringing off the hook. One reporter called and said there was this rumor about Kennedy and they wanted to call someone who was close to him and knew the situation. Should they stay around and cover the story, she wanted to know. "Forget it" I said. There's nothing to it..." I'll never see her again. I was with him on the plane Monday and we talked for an hour and a half. What do you think we talked about? The Presidential campaign--his <sup>presidential</sup> ~~central~~ campaign. The professional and the personal judgments must have been completely different. If his decision had been on professional grounds, there is ~~not~~ way he could have talked the way he did on the plane. He couldn't have talked for an hour and half; he would have shifted the conversation... If you had asked me to bet my house on it, yesterday, double or nothing, I would have taken the bet, just like that. One reporter asked me what I made of it all. I said, it reminded me of what my father said to me once, "Paul, he said, "you should have gone into chemistry."

On the way back he talked about his jogging. "I'm trying to get ready to run in the Boston Marathon. Someone leaked it to the Boston papers. I'd like to get my hands on the son of a bitch who did that." He said tomorrow was "my big day" because he had run 13 miles a week or so ago and then, in two subsequent jogs, could only go 6 miles till my legs wouldn't move." So

he's worried that something happened during the 13 mile run. But since each of the 6 miles failures had extenuating circumstances, he wants to have "a real test" on a good day when he's refreshed, etc. etc.--tomorrow.

Lots of talk about this. About a friend in Law School who, with Paul, vowed they'd get to the Boston Marathon. The other guy did; but Paul

hasn't made it yet. An unfulfilled ambition!

*[When I saw him in March, briefly, I asked him about the Boston Marathon. "I gave it up. I'm going to sit in about April!" The staff said it was a very sore subject with him.]*

I asked Rich if he felt he was in a campaign. "Yes, I can feel the excitement in my stomach. The day after the election we held a meeting up in Boston to talk about the campaign. We had talked about it before, of course, but not as seriously. Now, it's our turn. It's funny. Whether you actually start campaigning this year or next, with the three classes in the Senate, you know when it's your turn. We all know that it's our turn now."

He sees no Republican on the horizon now except some young (district) U.S. attorney. Weld (?) ~~who~~ who is going after Mayor White and might make a splash. The Dems. have no obvious person to challenge him and he thinks "1984 will be a fusion year for the Democrats." Sometimes Democrats like to split hairs and go after each other 'he isn't liberal enough' or he isn't strong enough on this or that. But I don't think that will happen in 1984. It will be a fusion year for the Democrats. Someone may want to run against us; but I think the people who give money and the people who make campaigns go will discourage it." <sup>Lawry</sup> (Larry Payne worked for several weeks in Barney Frank's campaign.)

We talked about the effect of Ted Kennedy's announcement on Paul. Rich sees it as a little bit negative on the grounds that if Ted had been the nominee, it would have been a protection for Paul. He'd have carried Paul to some degree; money would not be available to run against Paul. Now "all

the attention will be on the Tsongas race. That's all there will be." But we agreed that Paul would run on his own anyway and that, therefore, any Kennedy effect would be small.

Randy was talking about Paul as a Vice Pres. candidate now and we talked about Glenn-Tsongas. But Randy's larger point was that Paul might come out from under Ted's shadow a little bit.

Brenda Wellburn talked about the sugar bill. "It was my worst defeat ever." She said the debt limit bill had been saddled with abortion etc. and leaders had agreed to bring back a clean bill, not loaded up with anything else. So they bring back a clean bill and DQ adds sugar bill to it. He didn't tell PT, just did it. They went crashing to defeat. She rushed over to the floor when she heard it, gave Paul some perfunctory speech so he wouldn't desert Quayle. "Most people's attitude was, 'what in the hell are you doing this for.'" She admitted Quayle was an impulsive kid. But they don't see it as charming as much as they see it as disastrous behavior for an ally.

I talked to Tom Dusterberg later and he said that Dan tried to tack it on the continuing resolution right after the abortion filibuster had ended. The liberals were in no mood to have another big fight. So it came up, both times, in an inopportune context in terms of legislative floor. An example of awful timing legislatively. Of course, Quayle is a full speed ahead guy. Tom thinks that they'll drop it now and go on to something else. "There is no good time to bring that bill up."