

11-8-24
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March 26, 1968
9:40 P. M.

FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Larry Temple

As you anticipated, our mail to date does not reflect any significant response to any of the statements or positions taken by RFK or McCarthy during the last two weeks.

However, in spite of this, I am still convinced that a substantial number of people are having an adverse reaction to some of the indefensible positions that have been taken. But I fear that if we don't nail them to these positions and point out the unfairness or inaccuracy of them as we should.

For example, how many people today remember that Bobby Kennedy recommended giving blood to the Viet Cong?

Who spoke up and took on Senator McCarthy when he said that representatives of the Administration should not speak on college campuses or other forums where they know their views and positions are not acceptable?

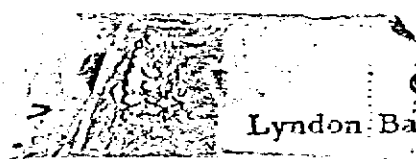
Who took on Senator Kennedy when he implied in Tennessee that the problems of lawlessness, drug addiction and crime generally are the sole fault of this Administration and the general discontent with it?

Who responded to Kennedy when he said in Watts yesterday he is elected those people will have "control over their own destinies -- and clearly implied that they are being controlled from Washington without any voice under the present Administration.

First of all, the President cannot and should not respond to each of the untenable positions taken by McCarthy and Kennedy. But someone should.

It appears to me that while any one of several members of the Cabinet would be willing to respond, each one appears to be waiting for the other.

Kennedy, Robert



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Since our efforts are rightfully being directed at obtaining delegates at the present time, no one is keeping tab on what is being said and getting a response to it.

Therefore, I recommend that someone be assigned the responsibility of carefully reviewing every speech made by Kennedy and McCarthy and the statements made by their supporters. If there is no immediate response (within a matter of hours) this individual would then contact the Vice President, Members of the Cabinet or some other appropriate spokesman and ask them to set the record straight via some public forum.

I don't have any strong feelings about who that individual should be. Perhaps Secretary Freeman or one of the Members of the Cabinet could do this best. But someone should have the responsibility to authorize a specific response by a particular individual within 24 hours.

cc: Marvin Watson

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