

Whatever he says to the contrary, or his true intentions might be, Senator Edward Kennedy is increasingly being seen as the Democrats' ultimate prospect for the presidential race next year, says
GODFREY SPERLING in Washington.

POLITICS and political situations change amazingly fast. Only a few months ago Senator Edward Kennedy had declared himself a noncandidate for the Presidency next year with Shermanlike words and with a conviction that just had to be believed.

The Kennedy position remains unaltered, but one perceives that little by little the Kennedy candidacy is once again becoming a possibility.

Three important governors — Utah's Calvin L. Rampton, chairman of the National Governor's Conference, Illinois' Daniel Walker, and New York's Hugh Carey — have now told reporters they would not rule out the possibility of Kennedy being drafted for the nomination from a deadlocked Democratic convention.

In addition, President Ford himself gives support to the Kennedy revival by letting it be known that he, too, sees the prospect of a Kennedy candidacy emerging from a brokered convention.

Further, Mr Ford is said to believe that a Kennedy-Jackson ticket would be the most formidable the Democrats could confront him with next year.

This does not mean he thinks Senator Kennedy would make the "best" president among those available. He seems to feel that Hubert Humphrey would be the best prepared for the job.

What gives strength to this emerging "boomlet" for Kennedy is the growing conviction among Democrats generally that none of the present crop of avowed candidates or any who may be waiting in the wings is likely to win the nomination at the convention.

The new "political wisdom" sweeping through the party ranks pictures a convention scenario that goes like this:

Governor George Wallace comes in with about one-third of the delegates. The other

They're THE DAILY NEWS all set 14 MAR 1975 to pull in Kennedy

two-thirds are split among a number of candidates including Jackson, Muskie, Carter, Udall, Bentsen, Bayh, Harris and, perhaps, even Humphrey and McGovern.

The Wallace support is perceived of as "hard", made up of delegates who will stick with Wallace to the bitter end. But while the other delegates would likely be more "fluid", it is believed that none of the above candidates could command enough appeal to pick up enough delegates to gain a majority vote and the nomination.

At this point — so the scenario goes — enter Senator Kennedy.

No, Kennedy would not really enter this contest on his own. He would be pulled in.

He would be persuaded by powerful figures at the convention that



Senator Kennedy

the family considerations to which he tied his noncandidacy position would have to be subordinated to the needs of his party — and his country.

He would be told he was the only one whom

the Democrats all across the ideological spectrum — the youth, the Blacks, the intellectuals, the blue-collar workers, and so on — would be given this message: Only you can win for us in November.

Some of this "Kennedy talk" is of course coming from old Kennedy supporters, like Governor Pat Lucey of Wisconsin, who would be quite happy to see a Kennedy back in the White House.

Governor Lucey only speaks of a possible Kennedy draft — but says he is certain the Chappaquiddick incident would no longer drag down Senator Kennedy's prospects of winning. He says the issue is "fading" nationally and would not "hurt" Kennedy in Wisconsin. — Christian Science Monitor.