

SENIOR CITIZENS FOR KENNEDY RALLY

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1960

ELKS AUDITORIUM

PROVIDENCE, R. I.

2:00 PM to 5:00 PM

SENIOR CITIZENS FOR KENNEDY

Senior Citizens for Kennedy here in Rhode Island and throughout the nation represent one of the most powerful and dynamic groups within the Democratic Party. Your wonderful turnout here today shows how convinced you are that the platform of the Democratic Party and the leadership on the National and State level in our great Party is dedicated to the cause of providing dignity and respectability for all Americans of every age.

The record of the present Administration in the Federal Government regarding the social, financial and personal needs of our Senior Citizens is a disgraceful one.

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I know that it can be, and will be, remedied on and after
November 8, with the election of a Democratic President, and
a Democratic Congress.
~~You can also help the cause of Senior Citizens by voting the~~
~~straight Democratic ticket for the Congress of the United~~
~~States and the Governorship and the general offices of the~~
~~State of Rhode Island.~~

Senior Citizens should compare the facts in making
their decision to vote for Senator Kennedy and the Democratic
Party. Look at the record of the Republican Administration
on Housing for the elderly--on Employment for the elderly--on
Income Maintenance for the elderly--and last, but not least,
on Medical Care for the Aged. The Republican Record cannot
begin to compare with the progressive and dynamic legislation

passed by Democratic Administrations in the past and pledged by Senator Kennedy and the Democratic Party for the future.

Medical Care for the Aged is one of the great issues in the domestic economy of this country that has sharply divided our national leaders in Government, in the Health Sciences and Industry. We here in Rhode Island can take considerable pride in the fact that our own Congressman, Aime J. Forand, has spent so considerably of his time and energy in support of a Legislation in this field that bears his name. The victory claimed by those who supported the Administration Medical Care Bill for the Aged during the final hours of the recent Congress is a shallow victory.

I predict that the Administration Medical Care for the Aged Bill will have a short and sad existence. You should know

that 34 states in our United States have already served notice on the Administration that they do not have the necessary legislation to put the present Medical Care for the Aged Law into operation. Furthermore, these states have notified the Federal Government that they will not introduce legislation in the near future to put the Federal program of Medical Care for the Aged into effect. This is a sad and sorry beginning for a weak Administration Bill that should never have seen the light of day.

When you go to the polls on Tuesday to elect a new President of the United States, think for a moment about this disgraceful record of the Republican Party in the field of Medical Care for the Aged. Think also of what Senator Kennedy and the Democratic Party plan to do for our Senior

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Citizens in the months and years ahead. If your votes help to elect a Democratic President,^{and} a Democratic Congress ~~and~~ ~~Democratic State leaders~~, you will soon have a Medical Care for the Aged Bill with the following desirable features:

- 1) Self respect and dignity.
- 2) No charity, no means test.
- 3) No annual fee anytime.
- 4) Coverage will be yours for life.
- 5) A self-financed and economically sound plan.
- 6) A plan based on the Social Security System.
- 7) A plan designed to protect all retired workers.

Personally, I pledge to you that I will continue
my wholehearted support for the position that the only safe
and sound way to provide a maximum amount of Medical and
Health care for all our Senior Citizens is by use of the Social
Security System.

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Today, there are 16 million people in the United States over 65 years of age. By 1975, there will be over 22 million people over 65 years of age. What this amounts to is that, with the tremendous advances in Medical Science, we have created a whole new generation of men and women in our Society. Everything possible must be done to make these many years of added life both enjoyable and respectable for all our people. Senator Kennedy and the Democratic Party is ready to tackle this problem in a vigorous and progressive way. You should help--and you can help--by voting the straight Democratic ticket on November 8.

THANK YOU.