

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 22, 1969

To: Bryce Harlow
From: Lyn Nofziger
Re: Counteracting Senator Kennedy

As you know, Senator Griffin, using some stuff supplied by us, attacked immediately last Friday afternoon and was backed up by Senator Dole.

I think that first we should get general agreement from the leadership that Teddy Kennedy is not sacrosanct for any reason and that they should attack him wherever he is vulnerable.

For instance, I see no reason someone should not refer to those who desert their friends in their hour of deepest need, who make a habit of running at the moment of crisis and who put their own political interests before their obligations to their fellow man. I grant you this should be done subtly -- like with a meat ax -- but I think we should make it clear that Teddy Kennedy is not to discuss the great issues of war and peace and honor and decency -- *with impunity.*

I don't think the Democratic leadership would have the gall to stand up and defend Teddy on this. You may recall the President's 1962 press conference was used by Democrats to question his stability, etc., for years.

Now then: obviously what we do is take Kissinger's material and write a series of speeches for both the House and Senate sides. Maybe Keough's shop could help.

Then, of course, we distribute to the leadership and others and ask them to use it. We have the alternatives of doing it all in one day or else spreading it out. I am of the belief that a continuing attack is best, with maybe some new information every day for two or three days.

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In addition, I would suggest: a Vietnam fact sheet for general Congressional and Republican distribution, distribution of a proposed speech insert for use by Congressmen and other Republicans, a relatively brief piece to be used in newsletters, etc. I imagine Klein has his own ideas about further distribution. We might also prepare brief texts for use by Congressmen for radio reports.

I think what must be decided is how much fact, how much attack on Kennedy and how much appeal to unity.