



STATEMENT BY ATTORNEY GENERAL ROBERT F. KENNEDY  
GRACIE MANSION, NEW YORK CITY,  
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The search for enduring peace and for enduring prosperity begun by President Kennedy and continued by President Johnson has successfully taken our country to many new frontiers. In these years we have made steady advances in human rights, economic growth, and leadership of the world toward peace.

Over the past few weeks, many leading members of the Democratic and Liberal parties in New York have talked with me about being a candidate for the Senate. I deeply appreciate their encouragement and their support, particularly that of Mayor Wagner. I have decided to make myself available for the nomination of the Democratic State Convention.

I have made that decision because I think our country faces a fundamental political choice. Our traditional aspirations for peace and prosperity, justice and decency, are being questioned. All that President Kennedy stood for and all that President Johnson is trying to accomplish, all the progress that has been made, is threatened by a new and dangerous Republican assault. No one associated with President Kennedy and with President Johnson -- no one committed to participating in public life -- can sit on the sidelines with so much at stake.

In this struggle, New York has a special role to play, a role which transcends the question of electoral votes for the Presidency. For New York is the supreme testing ground for the most acute national problems of our time -- the problems of racial harmony, of employment, of youth, of education, and of the quality of urban and suburban life. As Attorney General of the United States, I have been deeply and continually concerned with these problems. As a member of the Cabinet and the National Security Council, I also have been concerned with all the questions of peace and

security which have confronted our nation. It is my familiarity with these matters and strong convictions regarding them -- which are of the utmost concern to every New Yorker -- that leads me to believe I can effectively represent the people of New York in the Senate of the United States.

I recognize that some voters have misgivings about considering a man for high office who has left the state and who has only recently returned. I understand this, but it is appropriate to point out that my candidacy would wholly fulfill the requirements for membership in the United States Senate which were set forth after solemn consideration by the men who drafted the Constitution of the State of New York as well as by those who drafted the Constitution of the United States. There may be some who believe that where a candidate voted in the past is more important than his capacity to serve the state. I cannot in fairness ask them to vote for me, even though my Mother and Father have had a home in New York since 1926 and I attended New York schools for six years before my Father became Ambassador to Great Britain, and I have once again established residence in this state.

But I do not base my candidacy on these connections. I base it on the conviction that my experience and my record equip me to understand New York's problems and to do something about them. I base it on the fact that the greatest state in the union must play a leading role at the federal level in solving these problems. And I wish to play a part in that effort.

New York is not now playing its full role and the reason is plain. For too long, political control of the state and its voice in Washington have been Republican and in the minority. New York has not had a voice

in the Councils of the Senate majority since the retirement of Herbert Lehman. When Senator Lehman or Senator Wagner spoke in the Congress, the nation listened. Election of a Democrat in the Senate of the United States is an essential step in regaining for New York the influence it must have in the Nation. Also, I agree with Mayor Wagner's statement of last week that all of us working together to bring youth, vitality and dedication to the Democratic Party, can be extremely important for all people of this state. I will give the full measure of my energies to that task.

So, if nominated by the Democratic State Convention I shall resign from the Cabinet to campaign for election. I shall devote all my effort and whatever talents I possess to the State of New York. This I pledge.