

Kennedy gaining in Iowa

United Press International
DES MOINES, Iowa — In the last two weeks, Sen. Edward Kennedy has turned a rag-tag Iowa draft movement into a sophisticated political force that is starting to reach grass-roots voters.

The question is: Can he move quickly and effectively enough to deliver a severe setback to President Carter in the Jan. 21 caucus elections — when up to 40,000 Iowans choose sides in the first real test of the 1980 campaign?

Both camps are touting the importance of the caucuses, since they open the 1980 Democratic National Convention delegate selection process. The stakes are high and the fighting intense.

How do things stand at this stage?

— "There's no doubt in my mind it could turn into a real horse race," said a Carter strategist.

— "I think it's going real well," said Kennedy operative Robert Miller. "I sense there's a lot of mind making-up going on out there. Now's the time those minds have to be swayed."

— "You may see a real bloodletting before this thing is through," said one veteran party activist. "It could rip the hell out of the Democratic Party."

— "This is personality politics right now. People turn out to see this guy," said a liberal Democrat whose commitment to Kennedy is not firm. "If he can turn them on and keep them turned on, he's got a chance. If he flops, he may never be able to catch up."

— "Kennedy's got a good staff. The organization's humming away," said a leading liberal activist. "But some of the veneer's been torn off. He's been out there and made a few gaffes and it could create problems all the way around."

In short, Kennedy is considered able to give Carter a good fight, but there is no clear indication who will win.

Chappaquiddick, Kennedy's comments about the shah of Iran, and difficulties in his personal life all are seen as troubling potential followers.

Kennedy himself appears to be making a strong effort to win over the doubters. He has made three trips into Iowa since announcing his candidacy. The latest was a three-day swing that ended Saturday with a cross-state blitz intended to tap la-

tent support among liberals, union members and old-line party workers loyal to the Kennedy name.

Some 3,000 people turned out for a West Des Moines rally, many of them curiosity seekers drawn by the Kennedy mystique. But the campaign got what it wanted: 2,000 names from an intensive telephone canvass preceding the event.

Kennedy is just now beginning to identify potential supporters and assessing areas of support — something Carter has been doing since April.

Coordinators have been recruited in most of Iowa's 99 counties, but one staffer said the campaign may not be in rural counties, where voter turnout in the caucuses is light and Carter is strong.

Students denounce Khomeini

United Press International
LOS ANGELES — The Iranian Students Association, calling the seizure of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran a mistake, has proclaimed its opposition to the regime of the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

The announcement at a Friday news conference by the organization, which stormed the estate of the shah of Iran's sister in Beverly Hills, Calif., a year ago, was the first public display of a rift between it and the pro-Khomeini Muslim Students Association.

Ali Azad, a spokesman for the Iranian Students, criticized Khomeini's sweeping governmental powers, stating, "We do not support the constitution now imposed upon the Iranian people."

Azad said the shah should be returned to Iran, but said the "issue of the shah and the embassy seizure are completely separate."

He added, all U.S. hostages "who are not guilty of spying should be released immediately."

Job market good for 1980 graduates

United Press International
LANSING, Mich. — This year's college graduates should have an easier time finding a job than the class of 1979 — despite an apparent downturn in the economy, a report on hiring trends says.

Michigan State University's John D. Shingleton — director of the nation's largest university placement office — said Friday he expects a 1 to 2 percent increase in the number of college graduates hired this year.

"I don't think you've got the national recession this time as far as employment of college graduates," he said. He predicted business would not make the mistake it did during the 1974-75 recession by limiting college recruitment.

"Most recruiters we've talked to now think that was a mistake," said L. Patrick Scheetz, who co-authored MSU's ninth annual study of hiring trends. "They find themselves with a 'bubble' in the pipeline of middle management people, ones they should have hired back then."

Only graduates seeking employment in the auto industry will be faced with a "soft spot," Shingleton said, noting that recruiters from Ford Motor Co. and the financially ailing Chrysler Corp. have canceled their fall visits to major campuses.

Declining auto industry recruitment has been counter-balanced with increased hiring by firms manufacturing parts to keep older vehicles running, he said.

Graduates with aerospace, electronics, merchandising and petroleum engineering backgrounds will find eager employers and women and minorities skilled in technical fields "can write their own tickets," Shingleton said.

Study shows attitudes on Santa Claus have changed

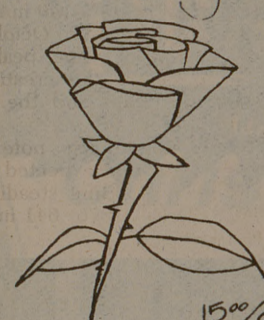
United Press International
NEW YORK — A cross-generational study by three psychologists indicates children today are more likely to want to teach their offspring about Santa Claus than did youngsters in 1896.

The study also showed the 19th century tots were much more likely than contemporary children to attribute superhuman powers to Santa — perhaps, the psychologists theorize,

because today's children are raised on stories and television shows about such superhuman characters as Wonder Woman and Batman.

The research was done by Ludy T. Benjamin, Jr., Jacqueline F. Langley and Rosalie J. Hall, and reported in the December issue of Psychology Today magazine. The new study replicated that done in 1896 with 900 7- to 13-year-olds in Lincoln, Neb., public schools.

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