

presidential campaign '80

Chip says Carter will win in '80

WASHINGTON — In the world of politics, members of the Carter family were just about the only ones last Christmas who thought the president could win a second term, Chip Carter said in an interview.

Now Jimmy Carter is running neck and neck with Sen. Edward Kennedy, and Chip, the president's 29-year-old politically active son, said he still has trouble believing the

reversal of fortunes.

He said he kept the faith during the low points.

"The polls don't bother you because in the personal factor — honesty and intelligence — he is always rated high," Chip said.

"They might not like my daddy but they believe in what he says."

Chip recalled that "at this time last year, only members of the family

thought he could be re-elected. I find it hard to believe he is tying Senator Kennedy in the polls."

He said he finds "almost universal support" for the way the president has handled the crisis in Iran.

Chip has been campaigning actively for his father since last April, and he rates himself the family's second best campaigner — after his mother and aside from the presi-

dent. He also gives high marks to his grandmother, "Miss Lillian."

In an interview in his sparsely decorated office at the Carter-Mondale campaign headquarters, where he is a \$22,500 a year deputy, Chip was optimistic.

"I have no doubt now that he (Carter) is going to be the next president," he said, "and it will be easier this time around."

Kennedy attacks defense spending, says Carter made 'deal' with senator

WASHINGTON — California Gov. Edmund Brown Jr. apparently has decided that Sen. Edward Kennedy — not President Carter — is the weak sister in the race for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Campaign manager Tom Quinn made that clear at a recent breakfast with reporters where he argued that Brown is a serious contender and getting more so because of Kennedy's supposed slipage.

He speculated Kennedy might

drop his insistence on a congressional call for an immediate end to U.S. trade sanctions against Zimbabwe-Rhodesia.

Helms denied the allegation, and a presidential spokesman said Kennedy's charge was "groundless and irresponsible."

In Los Angeles Friday night, Kennedy criticized Carter's defense spending proposals as straddling between hawks and doves.

Kennedy said Carter tried on one hand to "placate" hawks in Congress by offering a 5.6 percent increase in "budget authority" — an amount

that can be appropriated but not necessarily spent.

On the other hand, Kennedy said, Carter was offering "outlays" — the actual spending figure in a given year — amounting to only a 3.4 percent increase.

"In effect," Kennedy said, "the administration has split the defense baby."

Meanwhile, Carter was spending the weekend in seclusion at Camp David after another week of diplomatic maneuvering to win release of the 50 American hostages in Tehran.

While watching for new signals

from Iran, he also will be keeping close tabs on Congress in its closing days, hoping for passage of an oil windfall profits tax before recess.

In other developments on the campaign trail:

— In Columbia, S.C., Ronald Reagan filed papers to enter the March 8 South Carolina GOP primary and then took off for his final campaign swing of the year through Illinois and Iowa.

— Kennedy's sister, Jean Kennedy Smith, officially entered his name in the Democratic primary in New Hampshire Feb. 26.

Kennedy criticized

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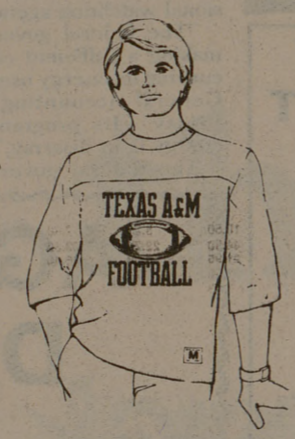
drop out of the campaign early.

"I'm counting on a major candidate I don't believe has his heart in the race. I mean Senator Kennedy," Quinn said.

"For whatever personal or political reasons, he is not running a very effective campaign. It's very possible someone is going to be out of this race in mid-April."

"I think you see the perception growing, Kennedy is flawed," said Quinn. "Kennedy is not doing well on the campaign trail."

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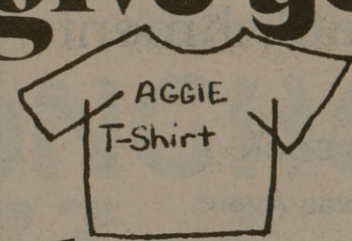
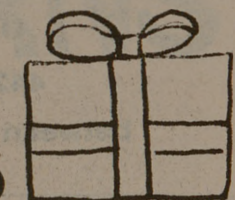
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