

**Volume 1**

**Number 167**

**Kennedy Gives LBJ the Nod**

**Lead: The nomination in hand the Senator from Massachusetts needed a running mate who would help him win.**

**Intro.: "A Moment in Time" with Dan Roberts.**

**Content: Wyoming did it, the entire delegation at the 1960 Democratic Convention moved for Kennedy in a single vote and he went over the top. After short talk with his pregnant wife on Cape Cod, a brief appearance in the meeting hall, the nominee motored back through the streets of Los Angeles to his hide-a-way on North Rossmore Boulevard for a well-earned rest. While an aide fixed some eggs Jack Kennedy**

**prepared for bed, the nomination for vice-President very much on his mind. He was a Senator from a northeastern state, perceived as a liberal with little experience. He had seized the nomination often ignoring the wishes of Party elders by a combination of hard work, careful strategy, and the generous distribution of his family's enormous financial resources. He needed balance and he needed it badly.**

**Over at the Biltmore Hotel, his brother Robert and the rest of the staff were discussing the running mate question. Symington of Missouri and Jackson of Washington were at the top of their list. Jack was beginning to think of another candidate: Lyndon Baines Johnson of Texas. Earlier Kennedy had acknowledged that**

beside himself Johnson was the best qualified candidate but the Texan's efforts at the convention in the "Stop Kennedy" campaign had caused a residual bitterness in many of Kennedy's supporters. Besides as liberals they considered the Senate Majority Leader only a thinly disguised Republican who would never leave his position to take up the useless job of Vice-President. While the eggs were being fried Kennedy leafed through the congratulatory telegrams. He was surprised to read the one from Johnson, it was among the most gracious. "LBJ, it said, "now means Let's Back Jack!"

Before retiring Kennedy set up a meeting for the next morning. Both men had to quell rebellion among their

**own supporters but when the offer was made Johnson took it. The Vice-Presidency would make him a national candidate, free him from his southern base and enhance his political future. Kennedy's choice was a wise one. Probably through Johnson's efforts the crucial states of the South were held in the Democratic column and Kennedy became President.**

**At the University of Richmond, this is Dan Roberts**

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