

# Mr Kennedy goes electioneering . . .

## . . . and critics raise their voices

FROM ALISTAIR COOKE

El Paso (Texas), June 5

"Cancel That Trip" was the first newspaper leader that the President read this morning as he climbed into the Presidential jet—ostensibly to inspect Army, Navy, and Air Force stations, as Commander-in-Chief, actually to exercise his political muscles as the Democratic Presidential candidate on an invasion of the Republican West.

The trip the "New York Times" was talking about was the now greatly abused mission to Europe, to plan the future of Europe with two former enemies, with the retiring West German Chancellor and with the non-existent Italian Premier.

But there are other critics who, while civil order is so menaced in the South, lament the President's salacity in planning three 18-hour days to salute the Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs this morning, to watch missiles fired from the White Sands range in New Mexico this afternoon, to stand aboard an aircraft carrier off the California Coast tomorrow and survey naval manoeuvres, then to flash into the desert to clock the latest supersonic bomber.

### Courteous foe

The President had not advertised this tour as a sabre-rattling junket. It is an admission, which the California and Texas Democratic leaders believe to be long overdue, that he took only two Western States in 1960 (Texas and New Mexico); and that of the two Western giants Texas is beginning to rise Republicans like a mushroom crop, and California is so beset with fraternal strife inside the Party that it could again repeat the failure of 1960.

These were the reasons that determined the President, long before the explosion in Birmingham or the multilateral nuclear squabble, to invade the enemy West on what is meant to be the first political tour of the 1964 campaign. But it is characteristic of the Administration's delayed guilt reflexes, when something goes wrong with its "grand designs," that it improvises a correction.

Only this morning a swing all the way out to Hawaii on Sunday was added to the trip, just as a visit to Ireland was tacked on to the crumbling European capsule as a sentimental booster. There are military installations in Hawaii but the President's purpose, Mr Pierre Salinger announced this morning as the engines were warming up, is to address the Mayors of Hawaii. The easily inferred fact is that Hawaii is a State in which the races mingle most amiably, as indeed they had better if there is to be any Hawaii at all. It will be a painless pulpit from which to preach he happy Doomsday of segregation.

With this poultice applied to the President's itching racial conscience, he was able to settle back in cheerful anticipation of the military tattoo. To his credit it must be said that, to keep the poultice hot, he brought along with him Senator Richard Russell of Georgia, who happens to be Chairman of the Senate Armed Forces Committee but is also staunch if courteous foe of integration. There will be knotty arguments aboard, in the intervals of breathtaking gasps over the wonders of rocketry.

This border city, which only 20 years ago was a Saturday night town for the mighty goat and sheep ranchers of West

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Texas, threatens (as where does not?) to become an interior Los Angeles. Its population has tripled since the war and it now constitutes a huge Congressional district, which last November committed the unspeakable crime of returning a Republican Congressman, adding a second of his party to the 21 Democrats who sit for Texas in the House.

There is always a reason why a first-rate politician chooses one hotel bed to sleep in rather than another. The President is here tonight, tossing a little fitfully, because he wants to assure the rebellious Texans, and their powerful delegation at next year's Convention, that Billie Sol Estes (now sentenced to prison) was a freak and not to be confused with the loyal, red-blooded heart of Texas.

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