



Print Debate



Senator John Kennedy, Democrat vs. Vice-President Richard Nixon, Republican
Presidential Campaign 1960
Print Debate Round One
Election Date: November 3, 1960
September 4, 1960

Senator Kennedy's Plans and Policies

Vice President Nixon's Plans and Policies



MILITARY WEAKNESS

We should strengthen our conventional forces. A Gallup Poll taken in February of this year asking the - in eight out of nine countries - they asked the people, who do they think would be ahead by 1970 militarily and scientifically, and a majority in eight of the nine countries said the Soviet Union would be by 1970. I believe in the next ten years the balance of power is going to begin to move in the world from one

direction or another - towards us or towards the Communists. I would immediately, in the first few months of the administration, increase the airlift capacity of our conventional forces. The United States should move full time on its missile production, particularly and the



ATOMIC

evidence ten, fifteen, nations will capacity China - by presidential will make a

provide for control of nuclear testing. We must make yet another major effort to renew negotiations with the Soviet Union to determine if it's possible to reach an agreement on disarmament and one which will lessen the chances of contamination of the atmosphere, and also lessen the chances that other powers will begin a nuclear



DEPLETION ALLOWANCES

With respect to the current oil depletion allowance, I believe all of the commodities that have a depletion allowance should be reviewed in detail to make sure that specific group is getting away from paying the taxes it ought to pay. We want to be sure a depletion allowance is fair and equitable. It includes oil abroad. Perhaps oil abroad should be treated differently than

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EDUCATION

We are for programs that will expand educational opportunities that will give to all Americans their equal chance for education, for all of the things, which are necessary and dear to the hearts of our people. We have built more schools in these last seven and a half years than we built in the previous seven and a half, for that matter in the previous twenty years. We need higher teachers' salaries

But we also want our education to be free of federal control. When the federal government gets the power to pay teachers, inevitably in my opinion, it will acquire the power to set standards and to tell the teachers what to teach. I do not believe that the way to get more salaries for teachers is to have the federal government get in with a massive program. My objection here is not the cost in dollars. My objection here is the potential cost in controls and eventual freedom for the American people by giving the federal government power over education, and that is the greatest power a government can have.

I propose a federal program that will reimburse states' spending on education construction, with subsidies to reimburse the states' general funds.

FORAND BILL/MEDICAL AID FOR OLDER AMERICANS

I am for a program that will see that our medical care for the aged is much better handled than it is at the present time. Here again, may I indicate that Senator Kennedy and I are not in disagreement as to the aim. We both want to help the old people. We want to see that they do have adequate medical care. The question is the means. A prudent, yet generous, plan that was not as intrusive as Forand is what I propose-an initial program of means tested federal assistance for seniors covering general care only. Tax supplements based on, but not affecting, contributions to social security, and other means would fund this program.

BUDGET RESPONSIBILITY

Under the proposals that Senator Kennedy has advocated, we will neither cut the national debt nor reduce taxes. The Democratic platform runs a minimum of \$13.2 billion a year more than we are presently spending to a maximum of \$18 billion a year.

The Republican platform will cost more, too. But it is a budget that is more sensitive to the national deficit. It will cost a

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the oil here at home. Now the oil industry recently has had hard times. Particularly some of the smaller producers. If there are any inequities in oil or any other commodity, then I would vote to close that loophole. I believe we should make a determination of how we can stimulate growth; how we can provide the revenues needed to move our country forward.

AID FOR EDUCATION

We need to support federal aid to education and federal aid for teachers' salaries. As I have said, I think we should have an educational system second to none. I do not intend to heap the burden further on property owners by way of a property tax, which is already strained in many of our communities. Legislation is needed that would provide for money to be given to the states. The states could then determine whether the money would be spent for school construction or teacher salaries.



Continuation of Vice President Nixon's Plans and Policies

minimum of only \$4 billion a year more, with a maximum of \$4.9 billion a year more than we're presently spending. I propose an increase in federal spending of no more than \$5 billion, an amount in line with our expanding GNP.

DEFENSE

Defense spending should be increased; the better to respond to threats to our allies and to freedom loving nations the world over. We spend less on defense now than we did in 1954. Our conventional and nuclear forces must have funding adequate to maintain the status quo, and to meet the coming challenges in the Middle East and Asia. The Navy's WWII era ships are in need of replacement or refitting.

I particularly favor increased funding for missile and space technology research and development. In many areas we no longer hold the leading position in this vital field. Last year, I met the new astronauts for NASA's Mercury space exploration program and I look forward to supporting their endeavors in my administration.

THE MIDDLE EAST

I strongly support multilateral talks between the Middle Eastern states, offering each participating state economic development programs. We must do everything possible to promote commerce, increase prosperity and remove the causes of war in that vital, volatile region. We must support and encourage the initiatives of nations such as Turkey, which has done much to normalize its relations with the state of Israel. Last year, we signed economic agreements with Iran.



The Eisenhower Doctrine must be supported with incentives and diplomacy. As the United Nations charter recognizes, there is an inherent right of collective self-defense. We have vigorously supported this right most recently in Lebanon in 1958. The Middle Eastern states must learn that their problems can be resolved by peaceful means, and that they should avoid antidemocratic influences.



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**Senator Kennedy's Questions to
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RESUMPTION OF NUCLEAR TESTING.

A significant amount of effort has been made in negotiating to have inspections of nuclear weapons. There has been a moratorium on testing as a result of the fact that negotiations on this issue are taking place. The Atomic Energy Commission, however, has been indicating that Russia may have resumed the testing of nuclear devices. There are some who believe that in the next few years there may be ten, fifteen, or twenty countries with an atomic capacity. If this were to happen, there would be a dramatic effect on the atmosphere. Additionally, this would increase the chance that more countries will have an atomic capacity, and that could well mean there would be a greater chance of war.

1. If in fact Russia has resumed the testing of nuclear devices, should the United states also resume nuclear testing, and if the Russians do not resume testing, can you foresee circumstances in which the United States might resume its own series of tests?

WHERE TO DRAW THE LINE?

Quemoy island has been the site of extensive shelling between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of China. The People's Republic of China (PRC) comprises most of the cultural, historic, and geographic area known as China. The Republic of China (ROC) is a state that currently administers Taiwan, Penghu and several outlying islands of Fujian, namely Quemoy and Matsu. The United States has threatened to use nuclear weapons against the PRC if it attacks Quemoy. Mr. Herter in 1958, when he was Under Secretary of State, said Quemoy and Matsu were strategically undefensible. Admirals Spruance and Callins in 1955 said that we should not attempt to defend these islands. General Ridgway has said the same thing.

2. Do you believe that Quemoy and Matsu are unwise places to draw our defense line in the Far East. Would you comment further on that and also address to this question; couldn't a pullback from those islands be interpreted as appeasement?

FARM SUBSIDIES – NECESSARY OR EVIL?

The government has been paying farmers for not producing certain crops, and if they overproduce a crop because the farmer is not in a position to bargain effectively in the market place. The cotton farmer, a peanut farmer, or dairy farmers in Wisconsin and Minnesota cannot protect themselves against the forces of supply and demand in the market place. Some believe that by working together and having effective governmental programs, this situation can be controlled, so that the farmers can protect themselves. If the farmers' economy continues to decline as sharply as it has in recent years, then a recession

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THE ECONOMY

Senator Kennedy has made on many occasions during his campaign statements to the effect that the United States has been standing still. When we compare recent statistics, however, we find that wages have gone up five times as much in the Eisenhower Administration as they did in the Truman Administration. We find that the prices went up five times as much in the Truman Administration as they did in the Eisenhower Administration. What's the net result of this? This means that the average family income went up fifteen per cent in the Eisenhower years as against two per cent in the Truman years.

5. Does Senator Kennedy have an economic program that can equal or better the record of the current administration?

FIDEL CASTRO AND CUBA

On January 1, 1959 Rebel forces entered Havana, forcing General Batista to flee to the Dominican Republic. They then installed Manuel Urrutia as President and Jose Mira Cardona as Prime Minister. Fidel Castro replaced Cardona on February 13th.

Since then, Castro has nationalized the Cuban Telephone Company, and enacted what he calls an Agrarian Reform Law, putting a limit on private land holdings with the state taking the rest. Former property owners have been offered compensation based on 30-year-old assessments. He has signed an oil purchase agreement with the USSR, and last month nationalized US oil facilities. Based on these actions, many people believe Castro is a communist.

1. Is Castro a communist? And if so, how does Senator Kennedy propose to deal with a Soviet client state only 90 miles from the United States?

THE MIDDLE EAST

In 1956, Israel, France and Great Britain invaded Egypt, in response to Nasser's nationalization of the Suez Canal. The United States intervened, forcing a cease-fire upon the Allies. Among other reasons for this was a concern of Soviet involvement in the conflict. From this concern about Soviet influence came what is known as the Eisenhower Doctrine, wherein the president has advocated the use of American forces to protect Middle East states against overt aggression from nations "controlled by international communism".

2. Will Senator Kennedy continue President Eisenhower's

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could be the result.

3. Does the government have a responsibility for assisting the farmer, and if so, what program would you implement to deal with the current farm surpluses?

CIVIL RIGHTS

The Supreme Court decision of 1954 held that, in the field of public education, the doctrine of "separate but equal" has no place in our society. That was six years ago. There is still a great need to address all of those areas where separate but equal is the rule rather than the exception.

4. What will be your policy on implementing that decision as rapidly as possible?

EDUCATION

There are some who believe that we need to have an immediate program to raise education standards. There is no question but that the United States should have the best education system in the world. In some areas of the country, our children are going to school in part-time shifts. Many believe that salaries currently paid to school teachers are nothing short of a national disgrace. Everyone also seems to agree that if this situation isn't corrected it could lead to a national disaster.

5. Why did you vote against the plan that would have granted salary increases to teachers, and what are your plans for improving our educational system?

CUBA – ASSIST OR QUARANTINE?

Rebel forces have entered Havana. Fidel Castro has nationalized the Cuban Telephone Company and nationalized US oil facilities. From all indications, Cuba is on a course of action to that will establish Communist state.

6. Do you believe we should provide assistance to those Cuban exiles who oppose what is taking place in Cuba, to those who oppose the Castro regime, and do you believe quarantining Mr. Castro is the most effective way to control his regime?

policy, and if so, where does he see it as most applicable in the near future?

NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE

In the past two sessions of Congress, the Forand bill, providing health insurance for social security beneficiaries, has been debated. Principled opposition to it is based mainly on the removal of individual choice regarding medical care, and the imposition of Federal control. An alternative would be a voluntary program of medical care for old people, with Federal participation.

3. Does Senator Kennedy support the Forand Bill, or does he advocate an alternative, such as mentioned above?

LEADERSHIP

Senator Kennedy and I both came to Washington in 1947, and have worked there ever since. However, as Vice President, being a member of the Executive branch of government since 1952, I have worked more closely with the President in setting the nation's course. And during the periods of illness, I have acted in his capacity.

4. Can Senator Kennedy speak to any comparable experience regarding the office of Chief Executive and his ability to handle the position?