

# The comparison

## Quayle on hallowed ground when citing similarities with JFK

WASHINGTON (AP) — To invoke the name of John F. Kennedy is to enter a political realm in which the fine print of history doesn't count.

The Kennedy lore and legend are recalled by politicians of both parties now, 25 years after the assassination in Dallas. But it is best done carefully, especially by Republicans.

BY THE NUMBERS, Sen. Dan Quayle got his history just about right when he compared his experience and Kennedy's. But he left himself open to the sharpest rebuff of his Wednesday night debate with Sen. Lloyd Bentsen of Texas.

It was as though Bentsen had been waiting for the Kennedy comparison, one Quayle has made before when questions of experience confront him in his Republican vice presidential campaign.

He hit the trigger as soon as Quayle said that he'd had as much experience in Congress as had Kennedy when he sought the presidency.

"SENATOR," SAID Bentsen, "I served with Jack Kennedy. I knew Jack Kennedy. Jack Kennedy

## News analysis

was a friend of mine. Senator, you're no Jack Kennedy."

Actually, Quayle hadn't claimed that he was, only that he'd been in Congress as long. He was off by two years. Kennedy served 14 years in Congress; Quayle has been there for 12.

But the broader interpretation of Quayle's statement was more effective ammunition for the Democratic vice presidential nominee. It has ignited a barrage of Democratic criticism, and ridicule, of Quayle on grounds that he claimed to be an incipient JFK.

FOR THE RECORD, Kennedy was elected to the House from Massachusetts in 1946, served three terms, was elected to the Senate in 1952 and re-elected in 1958. Quayle was elected to the House in 1976, beat Democrat Birch Bayh to win his Senate seat in 1980, and won a second term in 1986.

Bentsen served three terms in the

House, two while Kennedy was there. He returned to Congress in 1971, this time as a senator, defeating George Bush to win the seat.

While Quayle may have walked into a new campaign problem with the Kennedy comparison there are some parallels. Quayle is 41; Kennedy was 43 when he ran for president, 39 when he made a losing bid for a Democratic vice presidential nomination.

QUAYLE HAS BEEN under attack for what his critics call a sub-par congressional record. Kennedy faced the same kind of attacks when he began his presidential campaign in 1960. His opponents said he'd accomplished little or nothing in the Senate, and was too often absent.

Even after Kennedy had proven himself in presidential primary elections, detractors questioned his credentials, and complained that his family fortune was buying his way to the nomination.

Republican Rep. William E. Miller, the party chairman who later ran for vice president, said Kennedy was trying to "turn the White House into the house that

Jack bought."

WITH KENNEDY ON the threshold of the presidential nomination, Harry S. Truman quit as a delegate, saying the national convention was rigged for JFK and suggested that the senator step aside in favor of "someone with the greatest possible maturity and experience."

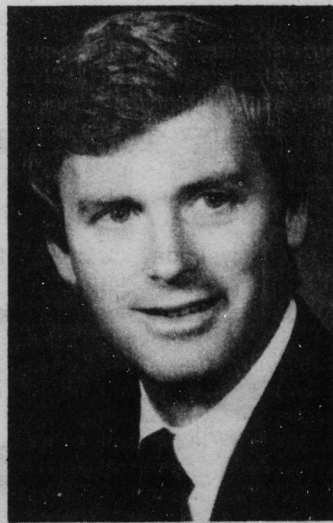
"Are you certain you are quite ready for the country, or that the country is ready for you in the role of president?" Truman asked in a televised address.

Kennedy said yes, that it was time for a young man, for vigor, for a new generation.

WHILE SOME OF those accusations echo now, so do the distinctions between the Kennedy of 1960 and the Quayle of 1988.

Kennedy was a World War II hero. Quayle's candidacy got off to a shaky start because of controversy over his Vietnam-era hometown service in the National Guard.

Quayle's academic credentials have been questioned; Kennedy's were not. Kennedy had published



**DAN QUAYLE**  
His numbers were right



**JOHN KENNEDY**  
Smarter than Quayle?

two books; he'd won a Pulitzer Prize for "Profiles in Courage."

Richard Goodwin, a Kennedy speechwriter, said the people who questioned his experience in 1960 were on sound ground. "They were right," Goodwin said. "He'd been in Congress a couple of terms and he'd just started serving his second term in the Senate."

"BUT PEOPLE PERCEIVED in him qualities of intelligence and sympathy or understanding, whatever the voters were looking for."

The experience argument was

replayed in Massachusetts when Sen. Edward M. Kennedy sought the Democratic nomination to succeed his brother in 1962. Edward J. McCormack, the state attorney general, ran against him.

"If his name was Edward Moore, with his qualifications, with your qualifications, Teddy, if it was Edward Moore, your candidacy would be a joke," McCormack told Kennedy in a televised debate. The observation was accurate, but the backlash was fierce, and the primary was no contest.

The name was Kennedy.

# Senate endorses tax exclusion plan for savings bonds destined for college use

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Democratic-controlled Senate is eagerly lending its support to a plan, already endorsed by Vice President George Bush, that would help lower -and middle-income families use U.S. savings bonds to finance higher education.

The proposal would provide a tax exclusion for interest earned on a bond that is redeemed to pay for college or vocational education. Its sponsor, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., said the plan is simple and risk-free, giving "children security in their future without creating a new bureaucracy or spending program."

EVEN THOUGH IT was

recommended by President Reagan in his budget, endorsed by Bush in his presidential campaign and passed by the Senate on Thursday on a 94-0 vote, there is no assurance it will become law.

That is because the Senate attached it to a catchall bill whose main purpose is to correct mistakes and clear up ambiguities in the far-reaching tax overhaul package enacted in 1986.

The Senate bill also includes a variety of special tax cuts costing about \$2.7 billion over three years, plus the tax increases to pay for them. By comparison, the version approved by the House has about \$7.5 billion worth of tax cuts and increases.

THE REAGAN administration opposes several parts of the House bill, and House leaders are reluctant to give in to the Senate on some of those provisions.

Senate leaders hoped to wrap up work on the bill today.

Senators spent most of Thursday debating an amendment that would have raised taxes on cigarettes, liquor, wine and beer to pay for part of a big anti-drug bill. The tax increase is likely to be considered again next week when the Senate



**EDWARD KENNEDY**  
Securing childrens' future

considers the drug legislation.

THE AMENDMENT, sponsored by Sen. Warren Rudman, R-N.H., was defeated on a 60-33 vote. A substitute by Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, that would have cut a handful of spending programs, including legal-services aid and low-income energy assistance, to fight drug abuse, failed 72-22.

Earlier, the Senate wasted little time approving Kennedy's amendment to help families pay for education. The provision is not in the House-passed tax bill.

Under the proposal, which Kennedy first introduced a year ago, a family could avoid paying taxes on the interest earned on bonds that are redeemed to pay for college or vocational schooling. The full exclusion would be available to families with incomes under \$60,000 and would be reduced gradually as income rises, disappearing for those whose earnings reach \$80,000.

PRESENT LAW ALLOWS the owner of a savings bond to avoid taxation on the interest earned until the bond is redeemed; the interest is exempt from state and local taxes. Kennedy's plan would simply turn the deferral into an exclusion if the bond is used for education.

Michael Dukakis, the Democratic presidential candidate, has proposed a different method of helping finance higher education. He would create a program under which students could borrow their tuition and repay it through payroll deductions after they graduate.

# AIDS not 'exploding' in heterosexual population: AMA report

CHICAGO (AP) — AIDS is not sweeping through the heterosexual population, says a report released today, but a researcher cautioned that spread of the deadly disease among heterosexuals will be a big-

ger problem than many suspect.

The number of reported heterosexual AIDS cases is doubling every 14 to 16 months, according to the report in the Journal

of the American Medical Association.

"ALTHOUGH AIDS IS not 'exploding' into the heterosexual population relative to other risk groups, the increase in the number of heterosexual cases is proportional to increases in other risk groups," the report said.

But "heterosexual spread of AIDS is going to be a bigger problem than many people in this country up until now have suggested," said the report's co-author, Dr. Harry W. Haverkos, of the National Institute on Drug Abuse in Bethesda, Md.

"The medical community and the public should be aware of this and start developing ways to minimize transmission," Haverkos said in a telephone interview.

THE REPORT SUMS up the results of various studies on heterosexual AIDS cases. About 4 percent of the 59,287 cases of AIDS reported in the United States between June 1981 and April 11, 1988, are listed as heterosexually transmitted, according to the report.

Heterosexual AIDS cases appear to be more of a problem among blacks than whites, possibly be-

cause of wider use of intravenous drugs by blacks, the study says.

Blacks accounted for 69 percent of the 2,392 AIDS cases attributed to heterosexual contacts, while whites accounted for 17 percent and Hispanics 14 percent, the report said.

DR. H. HUNTER HANDSFIELD, director of the Sexually Transmitted Disease Control Program for the Seattle-King County Department of Public Health in Washington state, said the report's authors overstated the potential of heterosexual AIDS transmission.

"We clearly should prepare for the worst, but at the same time the average heterosexual who is not being sexually active in an environment of drug abuse is currently at a very low risk,"

Handsfield said.

In an editorial in the journal, Handsfield said the rate of heterosexual transmission of the AIDS virus may be limited because women are less efficient transmitters than men.

THE REPORT REITERATED that condoms offer the best means outside of sexual abstinence to prevent the spread of the AIDS virus.

AIDS, or acquired immune deficiency syndrome, destroys the body's defenses against disease, leaving a person prey to life-threatening infections and certain cancers. It can be spread through intimate sexual contact, shared intravenous drug needles and from infected mothers to their offspring before or after delivery. No cure is known.

# Gay inmates petitioning to marry fined by Judge Boles

DANVILLE, Ind. (AP) — Saying "only a monster" would sanction gay marriages, a judge has rebuked two gay inmates who petitioned the court to be married.

Judge Jeff Boles of Hendricks Circuit Court fined the pair \$2,800 for wasting court time and misrepresenting the law.

"Their claims about Indiana law and constitutional rights are wacky and sanctionably so," Boles wrote in a stern six-page ruling issued Wednesday.

Phillip Shroyer, 30, and Todd Reed, 20, are inmates of the Indiana Department of Correction medium security prison at Plainfield. Shroyer is serving a 20-year term for robbery and Reed 15 years for burglary.

They claimed a constitutional right to be married, although In-

diana law prohibits marriages of two men or two women.

"This is not a symbolic gesture," Shroyer said Wednesday. "We will get married. Our relationship is based on our love for each other. We felt it was time someone made a legal stand."

But Boles called the petition a "baseless, meritless and frivolous lawsuit" that contained "weird and kinky contentions."

Saying 78 percent of all those believed to be carrying the AIDS virus are homosexual or bisexual men, Boles added, "The foundation of free America is the family, no matter what card-carrying liberals and social experimenters say. The foundation of free America is not a court-ordered marriage between two male inmates of a correctional institution."

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