

## NEWS CONFERENCE

March 14, 1968

There was no opening statement by the Governor.

Questions and Answers  
(Kennedy vs. Johnson)

Q. Governor, if Senator Kennedy were to challenge President Johnson for the nomination, what if any effect would this have on the Republican campaign?

A. It's pretty hard to estimate right now what effect it would have, but I do think that the Republican Party as a party would make a mistake to over-assess the impact of someone entering a primary contest against President Johnson.

Q. Do you think it could cause a serious split in the Democratic Party?

A. I have consistently said that I believe the value of a primary contest can sometimes be over-evaluated, and if it applies to the Republican Party I guess it applies to the Democratic Party.

Q. Excuse me Governor, I missed the question. Does that refer to Robert Kennedy?

A. Yes.

Q. How would you, Governor, assess Governor Rockefeller's chances against a Robert Kennedy?

A. I'm not going to get into any discussion on the Rockefeller campaign at this point unless it's something I do in regard to the statement which is for 6:00 p.m. release tonight — which I'll be glad to do at the close of this news conference for any of the people who would like to have it.

(Administration Legislation)

Q. Governor, how do you feel about the administration program in the Legislature now?

A. I feel much encouraged in the recent weeks concerning the progress of the administration bills. I think that they're moving ahead all right, and while I hesitate because of the lack of a real definitive position on some of these important bills at the moment — I hesitate to be too optimistic — I think that the leadership is solidly behind some of the important bills such as the water pollution bill, the mass transit