

# 14 Fund-raising tops agenda as Kennedy tours P.R. today

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Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., will move about San Juan today on a security-wrapped visit that is programmed to be short on crowds and long on fund-raising.

The Democratic presidential hopeful will meet voters under sheltered circumstances.

The first activity will be an encounter with workers at Olympic Mills, a Guaynabo clothing plant owned by Popular Democratic Party stalwart Francisco Carvajal. The second encounter will be a sortie into a public housing project, the identity of which the Kennedy headquarters refused to disclose.

Campaign coordinator Miguel Lausell said that advance disclosure of the housing project had been barred for security reasons.

"He is the last of the Kennedys," Lausell remarked pointedly at a news conference held in Kennedy's Roosevelt Avenue headquarters Thursday.

Kennedy will visit the headquarters, located in a former Chinese restaurant on Roosevelt Avenue, following the Olympic Mills visit. The headquarters, a spacious and carpeted locale, is the most expansive of any of the offices mounted by the several presidential hopefuls campaigning here.

The major Republican candidates — George Bush, John Connally and Howard Baker — share a second-floor office space located in a former Puerta de Tierra automobile sales agency. Access to the GOP headquarters is up a narrow stairway, located behind a freight elevator.

From campaign headquarters, Kennedy motors out to the Trujillo Alto home of former Gov. Luis Muñoz Marin. After visiting with the PDP patriarch, Kennedy tours the public housing project and then returns to the DuPont Plaza Hotel.

At 7 p.m. Kennedy will mingle with guests at a \$100 per person cocktail reception; then transfer from his hotel to the San Patricio home of Manolin Fernandez, owner of La Esquina Famosa. There is no head charge at the San Patricio buffet; instead guests will be invited to sign \$500 pledges.

Kennedy will proceed directly from Fernandez's home to the airport, where he departs at 10:30 p.m. for Washington.

Republican presidential hopeful Howard Baker was scheduled to arrive here Thursday night for two days of campaigning around the island.

Today, the Tennessee senator will visit San German, Mayaguez, Aguadilla, Isabela and Manati.

On Saturday he will have breakfast with Gov. Romero at La Fortaleza, then campaign in Bayamon and Guaynabo. He will end his visit with a meeting of supporters in Isla Verde Saturday afternoon.

The Massachusetts senator will depart from Puerto Rico as he arrived in a private plane. Kennedy's arrival was scheduled for 1:50 a.m. today.

As part of the security measures surrounding the Kennedy visit, reporters and photographers covering the senator are required to have passes, given out after Secret Service clearance. This precaution has not been taken with any other candidates, even though GOP hopeful George Bush made his second trip here just after the Dec. 3 slaying of two U.S. sailors by pro-independence terrorists.

Kennedy is scheduled to make important political declarations while in Puerto Rico. The statements will be forthcoming in a news conference after meeting with Muñoz Marin. Additional Kennedy disclosures will be made at the evening cocktail, Lausell said.

Most of Lausell's remarks Thursday focused on the alleged failure of the State Election Commission to take measures

guaranteeing fair play in the upcoming presidential primaries. The Kennedy representative also charged that the leadership of the New Democratic Party has so far ignored a demand by the national Democratic Party that it adopt rules to bar persons who vote in the Feb. 17 Republican primary from repeating their vote in the Democratic primary March 16. The NDP leadership has endorsed President Carter for re-election.

Lausell insisted that the State Elections Commission Administrator Gerineldo Barreto should impound the voter lists following the Republican primary, so that charges of double voting can be more easily checked.

Gilberto Moya, the pro-Kennedy Democrats's legal adviser, said his organization will file today for an injunction obliging the Elections Commission chief to retain the lists of voters from the GOP primary.

## Housing agency selling project units step ahead of RHC-Kennedy plan

By THOMAS DORNEY  
Of The STAR Staff

The Housing Department seems to be a step ahead of both former Gov. Rafael Hernandez Colon and Massachusetts Sen. Edward Kennedy in dealing with tenants of public housing projects who want to own their own homes.

Hernandez Colon, apparently unaware of what the Housing Department is up to, told tenants of Arecibo projects Sunday that he and Kennedy are "studying a plan to sell caserios to their residents."

Ismaro Velazquez, a Popular Democratic Party press official, said later this week that Kennedy will spell out details of the plan today, while on a campaign stop here.

Housing Department officials, replying to Hernandez Colon's remarks, which were published in a Spanish-language newspaper, said the agency is currently selling more than 1,000 rental units to tenants of 14 public housing projects at bargain prices.

The agency plans to sell an additional 1,700 units at 10 other projects by November for \$1 apiece, a Housing Department official said.

Meanwhile, the Housing Department has received authorization from a federal agency to sell 3,601 units at 34 other projects at their "book value," he added.

Acting Secretary Jose J. Andreu and other Housing Department officials said residents of six projects have already bought their homes at \$1 a piece, 266 during the Hernandez Colon administration and 325 since 1977. These projects, like the 10 other \$1-per-unit projects to go on sale before November, are Commonwealth-built projects whose mortgages have already been paid off.

Meanwhile, residents of nine federally funded projects have acquired their homes at book value, which is considerably less than their market value, by taking on responsibility for the unpaid balance of the mortgages.

Edilberto Lopategui, head of the Public Housing Administration, said 65 families took that option during the Hernandez Colon administration at four "Turnkey III" projects. Since the beginning of 1977, Lopategui said, 435 families have bought their homes at those projects and at four other Turnkey III projects.

In the past year, Lopategui said, 46 families out of 74 have bought their single-family house which were built under

Pro-Kennedy supporters fear that any cross-over of Republican voters to the Democratic primary will work to Carter's advantage. Participants in this double-voting, the Kennedy backers speculate, will be New Progressive Party militants eager to help defeat Kennedy's bid for Puerto Rican convention delegates.

Both Kennedy and Carter advocated "self-determination" to resolve Puerto Rican political status. However, Kennedy has long been identified as friendly to pro-autonomist PDP leaders, while Carter has always been represented in Puerto Rico by pro-statehood enthusiasts.

Gov. Romero has predicted that Carter will trounce Kennedy by a three to one margin. But, Kennedy appears assured of a number of the island's 41 convention delegates under the proportional representation rules governing the Democratic primary.

a different program, at Glenview Gardens in Ponce. Glenview Gardens is the first of 38 projects, involving a total of 3,675 units, to go on sale under the federal 5-H Program, he said.

The Glenview Gardens houses range in price from \$11,000 to \$15,000, according to Esther Rosado, a Public Housing Administration technician.

At present 325 units out of a total of 679 are for sale at \$1 apiece at six Commonwealth-built projects. These include 43 units at three projects that first went on sale during the Hernandez Colon administration.

These are the Coll y Toste project in Arecibo, San Jose No. 16 in Rio Piedras and San Juan Bautista in Santurce. Two other units in those projects are in use as offices.

Also available at \$1 are 39 units in the Lopez Sicardo project in Rio Piedras and one unit at Hato Grande in San Lorenzo. Four other units in those projects are set aside for use as offices.

Hector Gonzalez, an assistant to Lopategui, said the Housing Department "is committed" to selling 1,700 other units for \$1 apiece by November at the following Commonwealth-built projects: Jose de Diego, Aguadilla; Zeno Gandia, Arecibo; Benigno Fernandez Garcia, Cayey; Manuel J. Rivera, Coamo; Francisco Sein, Lares; Eleanor Roosevelt, Mayaguez; Francisco M. Cintron, Salinas; Las Lomas, San German; and San Jose No. 13 and No. 17, San Juan.

Since the Housing Department has managed to sell only 591 units for \$1 over the past seven years, Garcia acknowledged, it might have trouble meeting its goal of selling another 1,700 \$1 units in eight months.

Lopategui's predecessor, Arturo Diaz Neval, said 14 months ago that the Housing Department expected to sell about 2,500 Commonwealth-built units for \$1 by December 1980.

The eight Turnkey III projects with rental units available for purchase at book value include four that launched sales during the Hernandez Colon administration. These are Miraflores, Bayamon; Notre Dame, Caguas; Las Vegas, Cataño, and Ramirez de Arellano, Mayaguez.

The other Turnkey III projects with available units are Brisas de Añasco, Añasco; Vista Azul, Arecibo; Jardines de Quintana, Hato Rey, and Colinas del Marques, Vega Baja.

The unself rental units in the 14 projects currently up for sale range from detached houses to high-rise apartments.