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Sorensen Guides Kennedy's Words

STATINTL

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WASHINGTON, March 2—

The speeches and Presidential messages which pour out of the White House these days in a never-ending flood are largely churned out under the direction of one man: Special Counsel Theodore Sorensen, 32.

Sorensen, assisted by aides Myer Feldman, Dick Goodwin and Lee White, is responsible for the detailed research necessary to handle full-blown policy statements on just about anything in government.

Sorensen has long been at President Kennedy's right hand in formulating not only words to express policy and programs, but formulating the ideas that go into them.

For the most part, the young administrative aides around Kennedy are serious-minded, intelligent, but balanced with a friendly air and gay sense of humor. Sorensen is probably the most solemn of this new batch of White House men. He neither drinks nor smokes, puts in man-killing 12-hour days, and rarely cracks a smile.

He has worked hand in glove with the President since he joined Kennedy's Senate staff in 1952 and it has often been said that the two think very much alike in matters of politics.

SORENSEN, who was a Phi Beta Kappa at the University of Nebraska comes from a distinguished political family in Nebraska, and was raised in the fighting liberal tradition of the late Sen. George Norris, the father of TVA.

Sorensen, a slim bespec-

tled intellectual with a natural instinct for the political jugular vein, collaborated with the President in 1954 to produce Kennedy's Pulitzer Prize-winning book, "Profiles in Courage."

In the "fluid" operation of the White House staff, where most have direct access to the President and everyone has a vague title designed to cover almost anything, it is difficult to tell which staffer has most influence.

However, during the four years on the long road to the Presidency, Sorensen's voice was one of the loudest in analyses of political problems and in the determination of practical projects, and his influence is still strong.

His brother, Tom, is a top official in CIA.

Atty. Gen. Robert Kennedy, addressing the President's conference on youth fitness, explained he was just filling in until "the real athlete of the Kennedy family," the President, arrived.

Young Kennedy, who has seven children, explained there was no physical athletic program in the schools they attend, and added if there'd been such a program in his own school he wouldn't have gotten "beaten up" by his older brothers all the time.

Secret Service Chief U. E. Baughman was in the middle of a conference this week. His private line rang and he leaped to answer it.

It was somebody who wanted the League of Women Voters. Baughman says he's getting used to this. The league's number is only one digit different

than his unlisted one, and it happens all the time.

The new U. S. treasurer, Elizabeth Rudel Smith, is not only an inventive politician, she's a real live inventor. Several years ago she created a fire starter called "lite me."

It was a wood pulp product lightly covered with wax which lit fires when placed under

fireplace logs. Max Smith says she herself is afraid of chemical fire starters and always had trouble lighting kindling, so had to invent something in self-defense.

Mrs. Smith marketed her fire starter for several years, but finally sold it to a large company because the costs of setting up her own business "were beyond my means."

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