August 2, 1962

TO: Arthur Krim
FROM: Steve Smith
SUBJECT: Massachusetts Democratic Party Reform

In furtherance of our telephone conversation today, I am forwarding to you some of Edward Kennedy's views on how to strengthen the Democratic party in Massachusetts.

This is a project that concerns him deeply. He is convinced that a strong, responsible Party organization, with widespread participation on the part of Party members, is essential to good government. If he is nominated for the office of Senator, he has pledged to the Democratic voters of Massachusetts that he will help them build a strong and responsible Party organization.

He believes that the local city, town, and ward committees should be given more responsibility and should themselves encourage more participation in Party affairs by the active Democrats of their areas. To the extent that a local committee is active and representative, it should be consulted on appointments that fall within its jurisdiction. He believes that local committees should be brought into closer contact with the State Committee through the medium of a regular Party newsletter and through personal contact with the State Chairman and other State Party officials.

At the State Committee level, he believes a number of improvements can be made. There should be a full-time paid Executive Director, appointed by the Party Chairman, with the job of supervising and coordinating the research and organizational activities of the State Committee. The State Committee, advised by a group of Democrats who are experts in various fields of public policy, should be the voice of the Party on public issues. The State Committee should also keep a closer check on fund-raising activities organized under the name of the Party.

As you know, Edward comes from a family which believes that citizens should get involved in politics through the Party system. He believes we should have here in Massachusetts a Democratic Party which not only expresses the will of the people but which is open to the people and which can function as an effective instrument of good government and political reform. He will work to this end in his capacity as United States Senator.
some guidance and comments. Perhaps you might discuss it with the Director...