

FROM : Press Office of Senator John F. Kennedy  
505 Esso Building  
261 Constitution Ave., N.W.,  
Washington, D.C.

December 15, 1960

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON ORVILLE L. FREEMAN

Senator John F. Kennedy's new Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Orville Lothrop Freeman was born May 9th, 1918, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, one of two sons to Orville and Frances Freeman.

He attended public schools and matriculated at the University of Minnesota, where he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and was graduated Magna Cum Laude in 1940.

In 1941 he volunteered in the Marine Corps and was seriously wounded by a sniper's bullet on Bouganville while leading an infantry patrol. He was discharged as a major in 1945, returning to the University of Minnesota to complete his law studies. At the same time he entered politics, serving as assistant in charge of veterans affairs to the then Mayor of Minneapolis -- Hubert Humphrey and became an active member of the newly merged Democratic Farmer-Labor Party.

In 1946 he received his LL.B. and also became Secretary of the Democratic Farmer-Labor Party, succeeding to the chairmanship in 1948. In 1948, the year of the Truman victory, Freeman managed the successful senatorial campaign of his friend and political ally Humbert Humphrey.

Mr. Freeman was defeated in 1952 when he ran for governor but won his party's endorsement in 1954 and was elected Governor. He won re-election in 1956 and 1958. He was a strong supporter of Senator Kennedy at the 1960 Democratic National Convention and placed the Senator's name in nomination.

Governor Freeman married the former Jane Shields of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, when she was a student attending the University of Minnesota.

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They have two children, Connie, 15 and Michael, 12.

The new Secretary of Agriculture is part owner of a family size farm located in southern Minnesota which was originally homesteaded by his family before the turn of the century.

The Freemans reside at 2316 Seabury Avenue in Minneapolis.

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DECEMBER 16, 1960

FOR RICHARD MAYNE

THE NEW SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE, 42-YEAR OLD ORVILLE FREEMAN, MADE THE NOMINATING SPEECH FOR SENATOR KENNEDY AT THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION IN JULY. HE WAS DEFEATED IN NOVEMBER IN HIS BID FOR A FOURTH TWO-YEAR TERM AS GOVERNOR OF MINNESOTA. BUT THIS APPOINTMENT IS NOT CONSIDERED SIMPLY A POLITICAL REWARD. FREEMAN IS A BRILLIANT PHI BETA KAPPA AND A HARD-WORKING LIBERAL ADMINISTRATOR WHO HAS WORKED WITH SENATOR HUBERT HUMPHREY IN THE PAST.

ANOTHER MAN DEFEATED IN THE NOVEMBER ELECTIONS, GEORGE S. MC GOVERN, WAS APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF THE FOOD-FOR-PEACE PROGRAM WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BE EXPANDED UNDER THE KENNEDY ADMINISTRATION. HE HAS SERVED TWO TERMS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. IN HIS TRY FOR ELECTION TO THE US SENATE THIS YEAR, HE WAS DEFEATED BY THE CONSERVATIVE KARL MUNDT, SENIOR SENATOR FROM SOUTH DAKOTA.

PRESIDENT-ELECT KENNEDY'S 33-YEAR OLD BROTHER ROBERT IS REPORTED TO HAVE ACCEPTED THE POST OF ATTORNEY GENERAL YESTERDAY. AN ANNOUNCEMENT IS EXPECTED SOME TIME TODAY.

DOUGLAS DILLON'S CHANCES FOR THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT SECRETARYSHIP SEEM TO BE FADING AND THOSE OF EUGENE BLACK, PRESIDENT OF THE WORLD BANK, ARE ON THE RISE.

REGARDS,

TENNYSON, WASHINGTON OFFICE

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