

Lundine, Kidder Plan To Support Carter In 1980

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President Jimmy Carter's bid for the Democratic nomination over contender Sen. Edward Kennedy appears to be picking up unanimous support among the chief Democratic political office holders in Chautauqua County and the Southern Tier areas.

Over the weekend Rep. Stanley N. Lundine, D-Jamestown and Assemblyman Rolland E. Kidder, D-Jamestown, both announced their intention to support Carter over Kennedy.

Jamestown Mayor Steven Carlson and Chautauqua County Executive Joseph Gerace, both democrats, have already said they would support Carter over Kennedy.

Lundine stressed the Carter administration's commitment to economic development as a major factor in his endorsement of the president. "In a time of very tight budgetary constraints, President Carter has launched a whole new initiative to assist those areas which can attract private investment to create new jobs and opportunity. This initiative is vital to the Southern Tier and the nation."

Commenting on the Democratic presidential primary to be held March 25 in New York, the congressman acknowledged that the president would have a "challenging" race with Kennedy.

"Senator Kennedy has the support of a great many influential New York Democrats," Lundine said, "his brother was a great senator for this state, and this remote region was particularly fond of Bob Kennedy because he cared so deeply about our problems. President Kennedy was an inspiration to Americans and a great world leader."

"I supported both John and Robert Kennedy," he continued, "they inspired me to an interest in public service. I admire Ted Kennedy and deeply appreciate his support of my past campaigns. It is hard for me to imagine a Kennedy running for president and Stan Lundine opposing him."

"However, in my judgement, Senator Kennedy has not sustained the burden of proof which should be imposed on a challenger running against an incumbent president of his own party," Lundine said. "Their views are not really very different on most important issues. There is no

Vietnam or other overriding issue. I don't think it is time to change leaders."

Kidder said that "these are difficult times" and during such times some people would look for leadership which promises quick and easy answers:

"In my opinion," he said, however, "the nation would be better served through the stability and continuity of another four years of President Carter's leadership. Now is not the time to change horses in the middle of the stream. We have not had an eight-year president since President Eisenhower and the country would be well served by giving our hard working president another four years in which to finish the work he has begun."

Kidder also praised Carter for his handling of foreign affairs, especially the Iranian crisis. On the domestic front, Kidder gave Carter highmarks for his civil service reform act, his increase in the national defense budget and his energy legislation which is now in Congress.