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Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Edward Kennedy's 1968 speech in Sitka about Martin Luther King Jr. is available in state's digital archives

JUNEAU -- The Alaska State Library Historical Collections has released rare video footage of a speech by U.S. Senator Edward "Ted" Kennedy, delivered to the Alaska Democratic Party Convention in Sitka on April 7, 1968, shortly after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Standing in for his brother Robert, who had been scheduled to speak, Senator Ted Kennedy gave the keynote speech.

After introductions by Eugene Guess and U.S. Senator Ernest Gruening, Kennedy makes heartfelt comments on Dr. King's influence on the Civil Rights Movement and gives an update on the civil unrest in Washington, D.C., and in other parts of the country.

The original material is a 1" open reel video tape in an unusual format, labeled only "Ted Kennedy Sitka." The tape was transferred to an accessible tape format by a contractor specializing in media conservation. "When we watched the video for the first time, we were quite surprised," says Damon Stuebner, Media Specialist for the Alaska State Digital Archives program. "For being a 40-year-old video tape, it is in near perfect condition."

Senator Kennedy's speech can be found on Alaska's Digital Archives:
<http://vilda.alaska.edu>.

The persistent link to the document record is:
http://vilda.alaska.edu/cdm4/item_viewer.php?CISOROOT=/cdmg21&CISOPTR=10053

For more information contact Jim Simard, Head of Historical Collections,
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