

arranged to bring out a report the House, hopefully, would accept. This would not do much for scholarships, but it would provide another useful piece of ammunition for the fall elections, by putting the House Republicans on record as opposing a measure the Democrats suspect is widely supported in the country at large. Certainly, on Kennedy's proposals for a cabinet department for urban affairs and on medical care for the aged, the immediate objective of the Democrats is, not to get the measure passed, but to force a vote on them.

Among the Republicans, meanwhile, there is a sharp division over how to react to the Democratic tactics. The conservative Republicans—a heavy majority of the Republicans in the House and a substantial majority of those in the Senate—see a mood of conservatism in the country and insist that despite the President's personal popularity, there is no widespread support for his program. The liberals are unconvinced. They claim that Republican congressional leaders too often lend a helping hand to Democratic efforts to portray the Republican party as out of touch with the interests of the great majority of the public. This week one of the Republican liberals, Senator Cooper of Kentucky, took the unusual step of publicly attacking Senator Goldwater, and suggesting that the party was in for a terrible beating if it let itself become identified by the public with his views.

The Republican leadership in Congress lies somewhere between Goldwater and Cooper. The overwhelming support the Republicans gave the higher education bill indicated that Halleck, the minority leader, had made a special effort to line up a good Republican vote. But there would be no such support for even a modest scholarship bill, and a number of Republicans favorable to scholarship aid took the floor to attack in advance as sleazy tactics any notion of slipping scholarship provisions through the back door, as it were, and announced that they would have to oppose any conference report with scholarship provisions. The Democrats sat quietly and offered no clue to their intentions. The attempt, if made, would embitter some moderate Republicans whose votes have often provided the margin of victory for important Administration bills. But politics is politics, and this is, after all, an election year.—H.M.

Kennedy on Cholesterol: An Episode in Which the President Mixes Fats and Politics

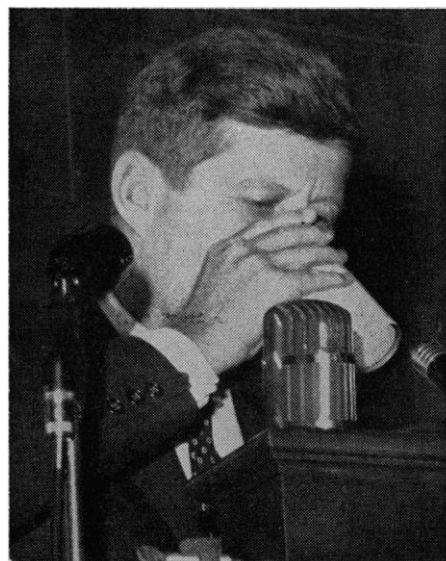
The sagging fortunes of the dairy industry led President Kennedy last week into a public discourse on diet and atherosclerosis. While the nation's dairy farmers had no reason but to be buoyed by the President's words, it appears that precision in describing the generally accepted scientific conclusions on this subject took second place to a desire to help the dairymen sell more milk.

The occasion for Kennedy's venture into the cholesterol controversy was the National Conference on Milk and Nutrition, which was called to counteract last year's 2- to 3-billion pound drop in dairy-product consumption. This drop occurred despite a 1.7-percent increase in population, and is understandably a matter of grave concern to dairymen and hence to congressmen from dairying states.

Addressing himself to what is considered as one cause of the decline in dairy-product consumption—concern about cholesterol—Kennedy stated: "... the Food and Nutrition Board of the National Research Council has concluded, after intensive research, that the association of milk consumption and coronary disease due to an increase in cholesterol level has not been sufficiently established to justify the abandonment of this nutritious element, except where doctors have individually prescribed special diets for those found to be susceptible to special cholesterol or coronary problems."

Kennedy was, of course, correct in pointing out that nothing has been established that justifies the *abandonment* of milk, a step which finds no advocates outside the ranks of food faddists. But the report to which he referred, which was published in 1958, by no means lets milk, or other foods high in fats, off scot-free. "Circumstantial evidence," the National Research Council board stated, in part, "indicates that the kind, or amount, of dietary fat is in some way related to atherosclerosis in man. A change in intake of the more saturated fats in the diet may ultimately prove desirable for health, but is not mandated by currently available evidence."

Conflicting even more sharply with the impression created by the President is a report issued last year by the American Heart Association. The report, prepared by the Association's Ad Hoc



President Kennedy, finishing his talk to the dairy and nutrition conference, takes a drink of milk. [Wide World Photos, Inc.]

Committee on Dietary Fat and Atherosclerosis, stated, in its conclusion: "The reduction or control of fat consumption under medical supervision, with reasonable substitution of polyunsaturated for saturated fats, is recommended as a possible means of preventing atherosclerosis and decreasing the risk of heart attacks and strokes. This recommendation is based on the best scientific information available at the present time. More complete information must be obtained before final conclusions can be reached."

Kennedy also discussed what is considered to be another cause for the drop in milk consumption, concern about radioactive fallout. On this topic he was on scientifically sounder ground, basing his assurances of milk's safety on the findings of the Public Health Service and the guidelines established by the Federal Radiation Council.

The President concluded by announcing that milk would henceforth be served at all White House meals, and, to the delight of his audience, he then produced a glass of milk from the lectern and tossed it down.—D.S.G.

Birth Control: Pakistan Receiving Direct Swedish Assistance

Pakistan has concluded an agreement to receive birth control assistance from the Swedish government.

Sweden, where birth control is a subject unfettered by religious or politi-