
On August 15, 1960, Democratic presidential nominee John F. Kennedy visited ER at her Val-Kill home. Kennedy came seeking Mrs. Roosevelt's support in the general election. She had been a prominent supporter of rival Democrat Adlai Stevenson. In this memo of their conversation, ER assesses Kennedy and displays her keen political instincts. Eventually, she endorsed JFK and campaigned for him.
had the feeling that here was a man who could learn. I liked him better than I ever had before because he seemed so little cock-
sure, and I think he has a mind that is open to new ideas.

I agreed that I would go on the citizens committee here as
honorary chairman, and that I would do what I could here. Whether
I would take any trips or become more involved would depend on
whether or not I was happy with the way he progresses as a person
in the campaign.

My final judgment now is that here is a man who wants to leave
a record (perhaps for ambitious personal reasons as people say),
but I rather think because he really is interested in helping the
people of his own country and mankind in general. I will be sure
of this as time goes on, but I think I am not mistaken in feeling
that he would make a good President if elected.