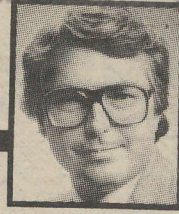


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## Hypocrisy of Kennedy visit

**E**arlier this month an overweight Sen. Teddy Kennedy went off on a junket to visit the starving and oppressed of Africa.

He stopped in Ethiopia long enough to have his picture taken amid skeletal children and then departed. Not a murmur out of the senator about U.S. and Australian charges that Ethiopia's government was starving millions of its own people.

No. Kennedy was after bigger game, the wicked white racists of South Africa who were kind enough to allow the roving senator into their country. So off went Kennedy, surrounded by an entourage of reporters and cameramen. His mission: To show the evils of apartheid and U.S. support for South Africa's blacks.

In days past, when politics were simpler, politicians on the stump used to make dutiful visits to the Three Big I's: Ireland, Israel and Italy. Now, it seems, South Africa has been added to the itinerary. Every ethnic voting block must have its own country: U.S. blacks now have South Africa.

There was brave Teddy Kennedy in the slums of Soweto, denouncing the government. My, but did it not remind us of those golden days when bigger brothers Jack and Bobby fought the racists in Selma, Alabama? Was this, then, the opening salvo of Teddy's 1988 presidential campaign?

Of course, Teddy did not really have to go all the way to South Africa to denounce white racism. All he had to do was tell his chauffeur to drive him to South Boston.

Now, limousine liberals don't usually spend much time with their white, working-class constituents. Had Kennedy gone to "Southie," he would have found the same leaking roofs, unemployment, poverty and whites opposing integration that he encountered in South Africa.

But it's one thing to blast the wicked South Africans and quite another to face Irish and Italian voters in Massachusetts who have been fighting for years to keep blacks out of their public schools. South Africans, unlike "Southies," don't vote in U.S. elections.

Then there is the question of reverse racism. This is my term for the liberal view that excuses any outrages in Africa as long as they are committed by blacks. Kennedy denounced South Africa at every turn but had not one word of criticism for the rest of the continent.

South Africa's blacks may not have the vote — except in tribal homelands — but do have the highest living standard in black Africa, along with the best medical services, best education and fairest courts. Nothing, of course, is perfect in South Africa but compared to its neighbors the republic hardly resembles Kennedy's empire of evil.

**F**or example, Kennedy had nothing at all to say about the close U.S. ally, Zaire, whose chief, Gen. Mobutu, is reported to have personally looted \$5 billion from his starving people. No blacks vote in Zaire.

Nor did he mention Rwanda. There, Hutu tribesmen, who had until recently been made slaves by taller Tutsis, rose up and cut the legs off 400,000 Tutsis — just to even things up. No mention, either, of the former Central African Empire or Equatorial Guinea whose former leaders have been charged with cannibalism.

What about Niger, Chad, Sudan, Mali, Bourkina Faso and Mozambique where drought, tribal warfare and incompetent regimes have caused millions to starve? What about that darling of liberals, Zimbabwe, whose tribes are busy chopping each other up, whose much vaunted "democracy" has vanished?

Compared to this misery, despotism and mayhem, South Africa does not appear quite so wicked. Millions of blacks from neighboring countries don't think so either; they have voted with their feet by trying to get into South Africa.

Apartheid, a hateful doctrine, is fast eroding. But Kennedy and other liberals don't tell us this fact. It serves their purposes to keep South Africa in the pantheon of liberal demonology.

When South Africans put down a riot — or even inter-tribal fighting — the liberals rise in indignation. Yet where was the clarion voice of Teddy Kennedy when Guinea's new leaders told the world that former leader, Sekou Toure, had murdered or tortured tens of thousands of blacks in recent years?

Never mind these harsh African realities. Kennedy still comes to Pretoria and lectures the obstinate Boers on the need to become just like the rest of Africa. Except that the South Africans have no intention of taking their country back a century. Yet they, at least, have the good taste not to go to Boston and lecture the Kennedys.

They could, for example, suggest that Kennedy spark integration in Boston by moving to the black area of Roxbury. Why not send his children and all the other little plutocrats of the Kennedy clan to public schools where blacks are in a majority.

Isn't it curious that the Great Liberal Himself, the champion of integration, sends his kids to lily-white private schools? Forced integration and bussing are okay for working-class people but not for the Kennedys of Hyannis Port.

And when is a Kennedy going to marry a black girl or boy? And when is Teddy going to share some of his millions with the poor of Boston, not to mention Africa? Liberals, it seems, are only liberal with other people's money, children and lives.