

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

June 27, 1980

Mr. Benjamin Bradlee  
Editor, The Washington Post  
1150 15th Street, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20071

Dear Mr. Bradlee:

David Broder's recent article on my call for a new approach by liberals in confronting the needs of the 1980's accurately reflected many of my concerns. However, my criticism of contemporary liberalism was not intended as a judgment on Senator Kennedy.

The fact is that I would not have supported Senator Kennedy to the extent that I have if I did not believe him to be one of the most thoughtful and innovative voices in American politics.

As the architect of airline and trucking deregulation, Senator Kennedy has worked to infuse our economic system with a new sense of competition. Similarly, he has advanced a range of proposals to spur productivity, a centerpiece of what must be the new liberal approach to the economy.

Senator Kennedy has been a leader in the fight for energy conservation, a major concern of mine. Largely because of his efforts, we have performance standards for structures, weatherization for low income citizens, financial incentives for residential and commercial buildings and industrial plants. It was his initiative that led to the adoption of the first line item on solar energy in the federal budget in 1971. During this presidential campaign, he has advanced a comprehensive program to reduce the use of oil through new conservation measures, utility conversion and the development and production of energy from other sources.

Mr. Broder correctly quotes my question as to why it should "be left to the conservatives to champion the cause of the Afghan freedom fighters." Again I was not referring to Senator Kennedy. He is an exception to the general silence on this issue. In March at Columbia University, in one of his major foreign policy speeches, he called for steps similar to those the Administration is now taking to secure Afghanistan free from Soviet occupation.

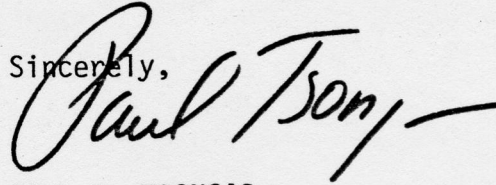
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There are many who are unaware of the forward-looking positions that Senator Kennedy has advanced. This is unfortunate inasmuch as he does not echo the obsolete dogmas of any single ideology. That is one of the reasons I have been proud to support him in this campaign.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul Tsongas". The signature is written in black ink and includes a long horizontal flourish at the end.

PAUL E. TSONGAS  
United States Senator

PET:dkm