Politics as an Art Form:
Guggenheim and the Movies

By Shelly Kelly III

From the Editor:

Charles Guggenheim doesn't consider his political movie his major bag, but he'd like to have brought him more notice in the industry. He's the man who produced the posthumous "Robert Kennedy Remembered." His goal was to make the best film about the political career of Robert Kennedy, and what he's achieved has been "a real heart-wrenching experience." He's been working on the film for over a year and a half, and it's been a struggle to keep it going. "I want to show the world... to put the portrait of Robert Kennedy... to bring together the members of the Kennedy family." The film is not just about Kennedy, but about the legacy he left behind.

Guggenheim started out, after World War II and the Kennedy family's rise to power, as a political journalist. He wrote for the New York Daily News and the New York Post, and later became a television producer. His film career began in the 1950s, when he produced the first major movie starring Michael Quick ("The Frisco Kid,"

Guggenheim's film "Robert Kennedy Remembered" was shot in 1967, in Kentucky, and then completed in 1969. The film was funded by the United States Film Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts. It is a 90-minute documentary about the life and career of Robert F. Kennedy, who was assassinated in 1968. The film includes interviews with family members, friends, and colleagues of Kennedy, as well as footage of him in public and private settings. It also features archival footage from the Kennedy years, including speeches and newsreels.

The film has been shown in theaters and on television, and has received widespread critical acclaim. It was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature in 1970, and won a Peabody Award in 1969 for its "outstanding contribution to television." It has been described as a "powerful" and "moving" depiction of Kennedy's life and work, and has been praised for its "depth" and "truthfulness."