

**Date:** Sunday, January 24 2010 02:57 PM

**Subject:** this is the type of crazy frank rich nytimes that screams be careful

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Kennedy didn't settle for the generic populist rhetoric of Obama's latest threats to "fight" unspecified bankers some indeterminate day. He instead took the strong action of dressing down U.S. Steel by name. As Richard Reeves writes in his book "[President Kennedy](#)," reporters were left "literally gasping." The [young president called out big steel](#) for threatening "economic recovery and stability" while Americans risked their lives in Southeast Asia. J.F.K. threatened to sic his brother's Justice Department on corporate records and then held firm as his opponents likened his flex of muscle to the power grabs of Hitler and Mussolini. (Sound familiar?) U.S. Steel [capitulated in two days](#). The Times [soon reported on its front page](#) that Kennedy was at "a high point in popular support."

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