



THE PRESIDENT IS DEAD



U.S. PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY

UF, City Leadership Expresses 'Shock'

Shocked and disbelieving campus and city officials agreed today the assassination of President John Kennedy is a tragic event that will forever mar the pages of world history.

Contacted shortly after the President's death was confirmed UF and Gainesville administra-

tors expressed sorrow and regret over the shooting, equal in audacity only to the murder of Abraham Lincoln almost 100 years ago.

Statements of the officials were:

Dr. J. Wayne Reitz, UF president: "The death of President

Kennedy is so tragic as to be beyond comprehension. I am shocked and grieved over his loss to our nation and the world. It makes one sick with shame that anyone in this country could commit such a heinous crime."

Lester Hale, dean of student affairs: "No matter what a person's views on Kennedy or his beliefs, this is a terrible tragedy."

Byron Winn, Gainesville mayor: "This has affected me tremendously, but I have nothing to say at this time."

Paul Hendrick, student body president: "John Kennedy was a courageous American. For his leadership he has paid with his life. His death will live as one of the blackest tragedies in our history. Let us pray that the freedoms President Kennedy championed will become as secure in our lifetime as he sought to make them in his."

Merle F. Dimbath, president of Students for Goldwater: "The death of President Kennedy is a national tragedy. I am deeply shocked at this event, and feel -- as do all Americans -- his death is a personal loss."

Our Town (An Editorial)

The death of President John Kennedy by an assassin's bullets has stunned, and at the same time united a country of men and women, who, regardless of their political affiliations, feel the deepest sense of loss.

It is too early to evaluate President Kennedy's record as the nation's leader. He may not have been a great President, as will now be claimed for years to come. He was, undoubtedly, a great man.

Watching him in action, friends and foes alike were unable to deny a feeling that here was a sincere, humane man who believed that the future of the world depended upon the United States' effort to bring about a lasting world peace.

To these ends, he devoted his entire energy and devotion. Even for the loss of a child, he could not take time away from his obligation to the nation. Now, it will be said, he has given his life, though of course it was in actuality taken from him by fanaticism. The more accurate statement would be that he had already given his life -- and himself -- to his country, before the first shot was fired.

His country will never, perhaps, realize the extent of that gift, but it will never forget it.

Kennedy Dies Via Assassin

DALLAS (UPI) - The President is dead.

President Kennedy and Gov. John B. Connally of Texas were cut down by an assassin's bullets as they toured downtown Dallas in an open automobile today.

The President was killed by a bullet in the head while riding in an open car through the streets of Dallas.

His wife was in the same car, but was not hit. She cradled the President in her arms as he was carried to a hospital where he died.

Vice President Lyndon Johnson was in the same motorcade and was immediately surrounded by Secret Service men until he could take the oath of office as president.

The President, his limp body cradled in the arms of his wife, was rushed to Parkland Hospital. The governor also was taken to Parkland.

The incident occurred just east of a triple underpass facing a park in downtown Dallas.

Reporters about five car lengths behind the chief executive heard what sounded like three bursts of gunfire.

Secret Service agents in a follow-up car quickly unlimbered their automatic rifles.

The bubble top of the president's car was down.

Mrs. Kennedy was on her knees with her head toward the President.

Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson was in a car behind the President's.

The President had landed only a short time before at Dallas Love Field and was driving to the trade mart to deliver a luncheon speech sponsored by three Dallas organizations.

Agents drew their pistols, but the damage was done.

The President was slumped over in the backseat of the car, face down. Connally lay on the floor of the rear seat.

It was impossible to tell at once where Kennedy was hit, but bullet wounds in Connally's chest were plainly visible, indicating the gunfire might possibly have come from an automatic weapon.

There were three loud bursts. Dallas motorcycle officers escorting the President quickly leaped from their bikes and raced up a grassy hill.

At the top of the hill, a man and woman appeared to be huddled on the ground.

In the turmoil, it was impossible to determine at once whether the Secret Service and Dallas police returned the gunfire that struck down Kennedy and Connally.

A Remarkable Life He Led

(By United Press International)

On a bitterly cold and snowy day in January, 1961, when he was inaugurated 35th President of the United States, John Fitzgerald Kennedy sounded a call to action that in many ways summed up his own remarkable career.

"Let the word go forth from this time and place, to friend and foe alike," he said, "that the torch has been passed to a new generation of Americans born in this century, tempered by war, disciplined by a cold and bitter peace."

Kennedy was all these, and he bore the torch of world leadership in a society where the old order was changing fast. On that January day, no man had ever flown in space. On that day Negroes in southern cities such as Jackson and Birmingham were not yet demonstrating. On that day the world had not come consciously close to nuclear destruction as it did in the great Cuban crisis of 1962.

"Sure it's a big job," Kennedy once said. "But I don't know anybody who can do it any better than I can. I'm going to be in it for four years. It isn't going to be so bad. You've got time to think - and besides, the pay is good."

He later found out - and conceded - that it was a bigger job than he originally believed. But it is most unlikely that he ever once wavered in the belief that no one could handle it as well as he could. To think otherwise would have been a negation of his whole life.

78
PK