

Grieving Thousands File Past Kennedy's Bier in the Great Rotunda of the Capitol

CROWD IS HUSHED AS IT MOVES BY

Line of Mourners Continues Into Night—300,000 See Caisson Procession

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monies. Mrs. Kennedy and her daughter, Caroline, stepped a few feet forward. Back reached out and touched the flag and the coffin it covered.

Mrs. Kennedy knelt, kissed the coffin, then rose and led her daughter away.

President Johnson had already come forward, following a soldier who walked backward carrying a wreath of red and white carnations. As the soldier placed the wreath at the foot of the coffin, the man who had taken Mr. Kennedy's place in office stood with his head bowed, then withdrew.

The wreath was marked "From President Johnson and the Nation." Numbers of other wreaths and sprays, sent despite a White House request that flowers be omitted, were arranged in nearby rooms.

After a short interval, during which staff workers of the Senate and the House of Representatives and their guests were admitted to the Rotunda from the North and South Wings of the Capitol, the great central doors of the Capitol were thrown open to the people.

Across the East Plaza, in long, silent lines, they came—patient, quiet, thousands upon thousands of them. They moved slowly up the towering marble steps, above which, on Jan. 20, 1961, a platform had been built for the Inaugural of John F. Kennedy as President of the United States.

As they entered the Rotunda, they formed two lines, each moving in a great semi-circle around the Rotunda. On red velvet ropes and 25 feet of stone floor separated them from the catafalque upon which rested Mr. Kennedy's coffin.

Enlisted men from each of the armed services stood motionless at the four corners of the catafalque. As the guard changed every half hour, first an Army officer, then a Marine Corps officer, then an officer from the Navy and the Air Force took up his position at the head of the coffin. They rotated command of the guard through the night.

Behind the commander, a sailor held the flag of the President. To the sailor's right stood an unattended American flag.

Footprints on Catafalque

Yesterday afternoon the dusty footprints of the military men who had placed the coffin upon the catafalque were still visible on the catafalque's black velvet drapings. At each side of the coffin were sprays of chrysanthemums and white lilies.

That simple scene was all the people saw as they filed past—the coffin covered with its flag, the motionless guards, the two listless flags upon their standards, the traditional flowers of death.

The police were nearly overwhelmed by a crowd far beyond their expectations. Witnesses in the Rotunda, however, all was order and silence. The lines moved rapidly around the circle—about 35 persons a minute in each line—and were directed out the west door to the wide porch that overlooks the Mall and the Washington Monument.

Outside, virtually the whole Metropolitan police force was on duty. At 4:30 P.M., the lines of those waiting to get in the Capitol started moving. The East Plaza back and six blocks, past the Supreme Court building on East Capitol Street.

Thousands Turn Back

Originally, it had been planned to close the Capitol's doors at 9 P.M., reopening the Rotunda for an hour this morning. When the size of the crowds became apparent, it was decided to keep it open as long as people came.

Thousands were giving up late yesterday, however, under the impression that the doors would be closed by the time they reached the Rotunda. Families from as far away as Baltimore and Richmond left without having gotten near the Capitol.

However, millions throughout the country were watching on television. The brilliant lights needed for the cameras played steadily on the Rotunda and broadcasters spoke constantly in low monotones into their microphones.

Across the wide lawns and the paved drives of the Capitol Plaza, the people coming and going swarmed like ants. Most were good-natured. There was little pushing and shoving, and no fighting was observed. But confusion was constant as people tried to find out where to get into line, how long it was and how to get out of the jammed plaza.

Even Mrs. Kennedy was inconvenienced by the crowds in the plaza. When she left the Capitol, in a limousine with her children and Attorney General Kennedy, her planned route along Independence Avenue to the Washington Monument was impassable. She was rerouted over other streets, led by a motorcycle escort.

Through yesterday among the throngs that watched the procession and those that jammed around the Capitol, there were few evidences of open emotionality. Not many people wept, or cried out, the mood was rather one of sorrow and respect.

Even among teen-agers, of whom thousands and thousands



AFTER EULOGY: Mrs. John Fitzgerald Kennedy and her children, Caroline and John Jr., leave Capitol, followed by other members of the Kennedy family and, at top, President and Mrs. Johnson. Behind Caroline is Robert F. Kennedy, who is followed by Sydney Lawford and Mr. and Mrs. Peter Lawford. Behind Mrs. Kennedy are Mrs. Stephen Smith and her husband, Mrs. Lawford and Mrs. Smith are sisters-in-law of Mrs. Kennedy.

seemed to be present, there was quiet. People passing through the Rotunda were told that no photographs were to be taken; only a few, looking somewhat furtive, broke the restriction. The police said some persons began lining up at midnight Saturday. Yesterday morning, hours before the procession began, crowds began to form along the streets and in Lafayette Square across Pennsylvania Avenue from the White House.

A half-hour before the procession began, the news reached the White House that Lee H. Oswald, charged with the murder of Mr. Kennedy in Dallas on Friday, had been shot down in that city.

Among the crowds many had transistor radios, and the news from Dallas swept rapidly. It was a constant subject of conversation in the crowd; and one gray-haired woman, seated on a bench in Lafayette Square, told her husband:

"I told you last night, Henry, I had a feeling something like this would happen. That man held so many secrets, some one had to kill him."

Another woman exclaimed: "My God, how long will this go on?"

On the lawn before the north portico of the White House, a small crowd of White House employees and workers in the Executive Office Building was permitted to assemble. The circular drive in front of the mansion was lined, shortly after noon, with black limousines, an honor guard and the bearers of flags of all the states were lined up.

At 12:40 P.M., President and Mrs. Johnson arrived at the north portico and entered the black-draped doors of the building that will now be their home. Shortly thereafter, the empty catafalque, draped in black and drawn by six gray horses, came up the drive and stopped under the portico.

It was the same catafalque upon which the body of Franklin D. Roosevelt was carried from the White House to the Capitol in 1945.

Behind it was Sargent. The horse was given to Mrs. Kennedy in March, 1962, by President Ayub Khan of Pakistan when she visited that country. The White House said Mrs. Kennedy had requested that the horse be used as the traditional symbol of a fallen warrior. A black-handled sword hung in a silver scabbard from the saddle.

Mrs. Kennedy has ridden the horse in the hunt country around nearby Atoka, Va., where the late President built a new home. The other horses were Army stock from Fort Myer in Virginia.

Then Mr. Kennedy's military aides, Maj. Gen. Chester V. Clifton of the Army, Brig. Gen. Godfrey McHugh of the Air Force and Capt. Tazewell T. Shepard Jr. of the Navy, lined up at attention behind the casket.

Eight enlisted men of the various armed services carried the

coffin out onto the north portico down the few steps and placed it on the catafalque. The military aides moved to the front. The caisson pulled slowly away, followed by the black horse. And a limousine slid into place at the foot of the steps.

Mrs. Kennedy, in black and wearing a black mantilla, came out, holding Caroline and John Jr. by the hand. The children were dressed in identical shades of blue. The three entered the car and 2-year-old John Jr., apparently unaware of the nature of the occasion, bounced up on the seat and peered out the rear window.

Attorney General Kennedy followed them into the car. President and Mrs. Johnson took the jump seats, and the limousine pulled away.

In rapid order, other limousines drove up to the steps and were filled. In the second car were Mr. Kennedy's sisters Patricia and Jean, and their husbands, Peter Lawford and Stephen E. Smith. In the third were Mrs. Kennedy's stepfather and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh D. Auchincloss, and others of the Auchincloss family.

Mrs. Robert Kennedy, several of her children, and Sargent Shriver, the husband of the former Eunice Kennedy, were in the next car. Mrs. Shriver, her mother, Mrs. Rose Kennedy, and Senator Edward M. Kennedy, the youngest brother, were flying to Washington from Hyannis Port, Mass., and were not in the procession.

A number of employees of the Kennedy family were personal aides in another car. Other cars with officials, security agents and policemen joined the line. As the procession moved slowly onto Pennsylvania Avenue, turned briefly on 15th Street, and then rounded on to the long straight stretch of Pennsylvania that reaches from the Treasury Building to the Capitol, the line was about two city blocks long.

Joint Chiefs March

In advance of the caisson, on foot, were policemen, the escort commander—Maj. Gen. Philip C. White of the Military District of Washington—five military drummers, a drum-major and a company of Navy enlisted men. They walked at funeral pace, 100 paces a minute.

Behind them was a special honor guard, composed of the Joint Chiefs of Staff led by their chairman, Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor, and followed by Mr. Kennedy's military aides.

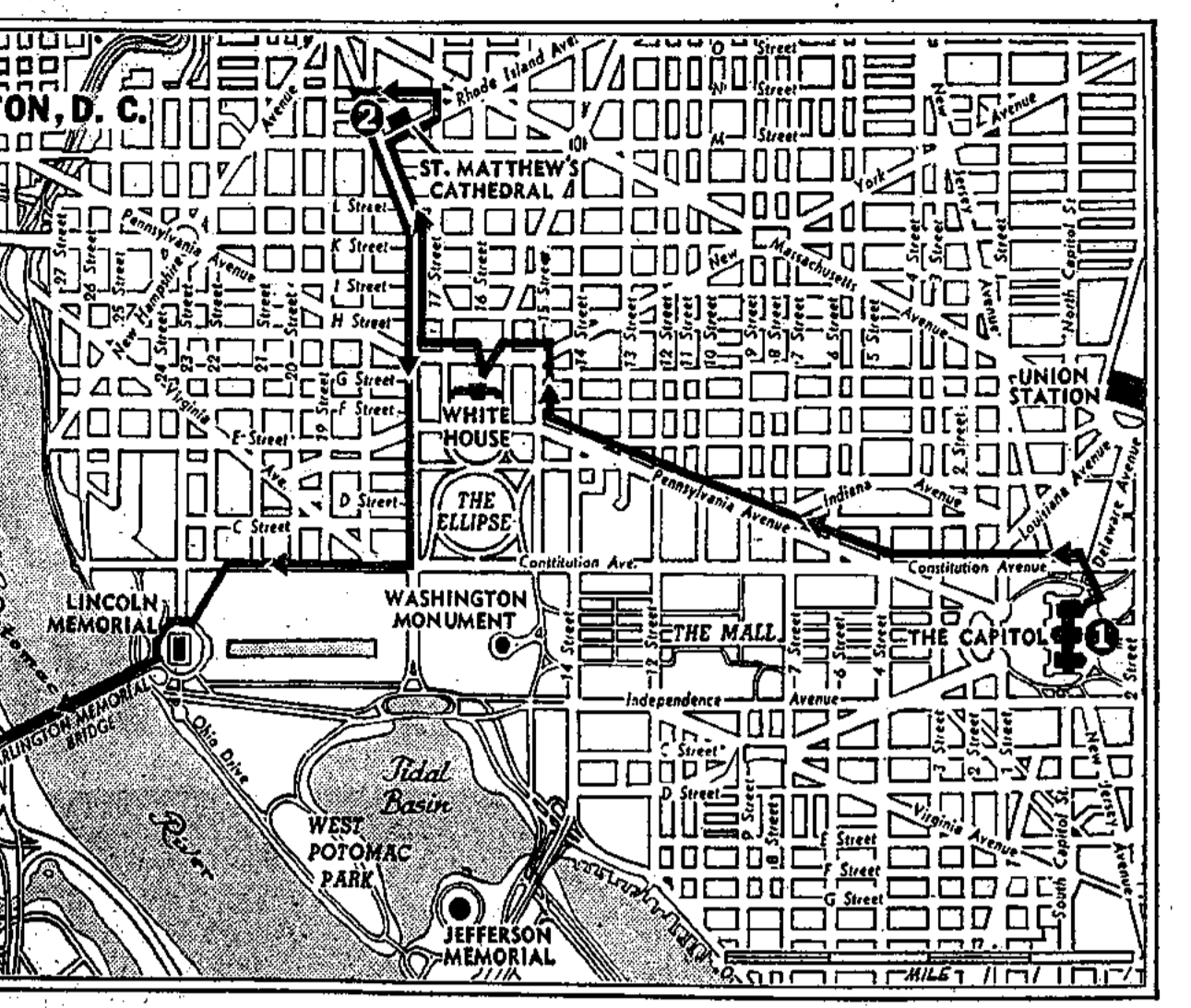
The national colors immediately preceded the caisson. Between it and the car carrying Mrs. Kennedy and President Johnson, there were personal flags, the marching body bearers, and the fiderless Sargent. Three clergymen also marched in the procession. They were the Very Rev. Francis Bowes Sayre Jr., dean of the Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul (Washington Cathedral), Protestant Episcopal; the Right Rev. John S. Spencer of Sacred Heart Shrine (Roman Catholic),

and the Very Rev. K. V. Kazanjian, rector of St. Mary's Armenian Apostolic Church. Dean Sayre was born in the White House on Jan. 17, 1915. His mother was the daughter of President Woodrow Wilson, the late Mrs. Jessie Woodrow Wilson Sayre.

Crowds lined the entire route at least 10 deep, and twice that thick at some places. Others stretched up the side streets, hung from windows of buildings along the street, lined open-tiered parking buildings and mounted the pedestals of the street's numerous statues.

At 25-foot intervals, soldiers with fixed bayonets lined the street on each side, standing at parade rest.

The Secret Service and the Dallas police, nervous after the Dallas motorcade that ended in death for Mr. Kennedy, took unusually stringent security precautions for Mr. Johnson.



FUNERAL ROUTE: Cortege will move from the Capitol (1) to St. Matthew's Roman Catholic Cathedral (2), for pontifical requiem mass. Then it will go to Arlington National Cemetery (3), where President Kennedy will be buried.

Kennedy's Mother Visits Altar Dedicated to Son Killed in War

HYANNIS PORT, Mass., Nov. 24 (UPI)—The mother of President Kennedy worshipped today before an altar dedicated to another son—Joseph P. Kennedy Jr., who was killed in World War II.

Mrs. Joseph P. Kennedy, 72 years old, attended two masses in the white clapnet Roman Catholic Church at this Cape Cod community. One son, Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts, and a daughter, Mrs. Sargent Shriver, also attended the church a few hours before all three flew to Washington for the President's funeral tomorrow.

Today, in church, one seat was empty. At the 11 A.M. mass, the priest, Msgr. Leonard J. Daley, noted that the empty seat in a side chapel of St. Francis Xavier Church was the one occupied by President Kennedy when he attended church while home from Washington.

"It is empty," Msgr. Daley said. "We like to think of him in the days before he became President when he worshipped at this altar," the priest went on. Sobs were audible among the congregation that included a 150-member uniformed veterans group.

The President's mother, his brother, and married sister had attended church earlier. The mother prayed through two masses starting at 7 A.M. Mrs. Kennedy sat in the vestry. She emerged only to receive communion with the other

chamber, near a temporary lectern. The members of the Kennedy family gathered near them. Caroline and John Jr. stood holding their mother's hands, Caroline sedately, John occasionally capering about.

Among those in the Rotunda was former President Harry S. Truman. He was accompanied by his daughter, Mrs. E. C. Daniel of New York.

Senator Mike Mansfield of Montana, the Democratic leader of the Senate, was the first eulogist.

Mansfield's Eulogy

As television lights washed the Rotunda in a harsh, artificial glare, Senator Mansfield spoke in tones that grew ever more ringing.

Four times, in praising the man who was dead, and the life he had lived for his country and with his wife, Senator Mansfield repeated:

"In a moment, it was no more. And so she took a ring from her finger and placed it in his hands."

A fifth time he said it and added "and kissed him, and closed the lid of a coffin."

The Senator referred to Mrs. Kennedy's having put her ring on a finger of the President and having kissed him as the body was about to be taken to the plane for its return to Washington.

At that moment, the Senator said, "a piece of each of us died."

Mr. Kennedy, he said, "gave us of his love that we, too, in turn, might give. He gave that we might give of ourselves, that we might give to one another until there would be no room, no room at all for the bigotry, the hatred, the prejudice and the arrogance which converged in that moment of horror to strike him down."

Chief Justice Earl Warren struck much the same note in the eulogy that followed.

"What moved some misguided wretch to do this horrible deed may never be known to us," he said, "but we do know that such acts are commonly stimulated by forces of hatred and malice such as today, and are eating their way into the bloodstream of American life."

"What a price we pay for this fanaticism!" he declared. Then the Chief Justice said: "If we really love this country, if we truly love justice and mercy, if we fervently want to make this nation better for those who are to follow us, we can at least abjure the hatred that consumes people, the false accusations that divide us and the bitterness that begets violence."

"Is it too much to hope that the martyrdom of our beloved President might even soften the hearts of those who would themselves recoil from assassination, but who do not shrink

MOURNING IS LED BY MRS. KENNEDY

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back the crowd while she went on through. She walked slowly to the side of the coffin, knelt beside it and then, with her hand on the flag again, kissed the coffin.

Standing, she turned, looked long at the crowd and then rejoined the Attorney General. They walked slowly out of the front entrance, passing the crowd, seeming to look at its faces.

After walking down the steps beside the line filing up, Mrs. Kennedy was heard to say, "Let's walk a bit."

They walked west to the bottom of Capitol Hill, stopped to chat with some nuns they met, and finally got in a limousine when a crowd began to gather. The limousine carrying Mrs. Kennedy and the children back to the White House this afternoon had to be rerouted over side streets because of crowds.

Another Sad Journey

Tomorrow, Mrs. Kennedy will again follow the caisson by car from the Capitol to the White House. There, she will alight to follow the coffin by foot for five blocks to St. Matthew's Cathedral for the funeral mass.

White House aides declined tonight to say if the children would attend the service or the burial, which will be held in Arlington National Cemetery.

Mrs. Kennedy will meet with foreign heads of state at the White House at 3:30 tomorrow afternoon, shortly after the burial, it was announced tonight. The State Department was flooded all day with requests of foreign dignitaries to meet her.

The solemn ceremonies of the day began in late morning for Mrs. Kennedy and her children when they attended a private mass in the East Room, where the coffin rested under a crystal chandelier.

The mass was celebrated by the Rev. M. Frank Ruppert of St. Matthews Cathedral. Present were members of the family and close friends, including Paul Ray and Charles Spaulding of New York.

Joining Mrs. Kennedy at the White House before the procession to the Capitol were her stepfather and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh D. Auchincloss of Washington and Newport, and her stepister and stepbrother, Miss Janet Auchincloss and James Auchincloss.

Sister Is Visiting

Mrs. Kennedy's sister, Princess Stanislas Radziwill of London, arrived yesterday to stay with her sister until after the funeral. Attorney General and Mrs. Kennedy also are staying with her much of the time.

Other members of the family at the White House during the mourning were two of President Kennedy's sisters and their husbands, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Smith and Mr. and Mrs. Peter Lawford.

Arriving from Hyannis Port, Mass., aboard the family plane, the Caroline, late today were Mrs. Kennedy's mother, Mrs. Joseph P. Kennedy, a sister, Mrs. Sargent Shriver; and a brother, Senator Edward M. Kennedy.

President Kennedy's mother, one of her daughters, two daughters-in-law and one son-in-law visited the catafalque in the Rotunda just after 10 P.M. Kneeling and praying beside the coffin for several minutes were the senior Mrs. Kennedy, Joan Kennedy, wife of Senator Kennedy; Mrs. Robert Kennedy, and Mrs. Shriver, who is the President's sister Eunice.

Standing by was Mr. Lawford, the actor, husband of the President's sister Patricia, who was not present.

White House aides said that Mrs. Kennedy is holding off on plans for her future until after the funeral. They said that only the files from President Kennedy's office had been moved out.

It is possible that, after leaving the White House, Mrs. Kennedy will go to her country home on Rattlesnake Mountain, near Atoka, Va. Or she may go to the Kennedy summer home at Hyannis Port, to the Auchincloss estate, Jammersmith Farm, at Newport, R.I., or the Auchincloss home in Georgetown.