

subsequent events in Dallas caused a severe strain upon the rule of law, both federal and state. But we as a nation and state are grateful that there was an orderly transition within the federal government and a continuity of executive functions in our Texas affairs.

It was a simple but dramatic moment when Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson took the oath of office as President of the United States in the same airplane that brought President Kennedy and him to Dallas, within an hour after President Kennedy had expired in a nearby hospital.

Shortly after the oath was administered by Judge Sarah T. Hughes in the presence of a few friends and officials, including Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy, still clad in the same blood-stained suit she was wearing when she held her husband in the last few minutes of his life, President Johnson ordered the plane, bearing the body of President Kennedy to Washington. As the mighty jet roared to the Capitol at six hundred miles per hour, the government began to function smoothly and effectively. Thus, the abrupt change of chief executives of a mighty nation epitomized the effective function of the rule of law as prescribed under our Constitution, which has existed longer than the constitution of any other nation.