

# KENNEDY LAST WORDS: 'MY GOD, I'M HIT'

## WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — "My God, I'm hit," were the last words that President John F. Kennedy ever said.

Instantly, Jacqueline Kennedy grabbed her mortally wounded husband and screamed, "Oh my God, they have shot my husband. I love you Jack."

At the same moment, Texas Gov. John Connally felt a searing flash in his back.

Seeing the blood gush from his chest and thinking himself dying, Gov. Connally cried out, "Oh, no, no, no. They are going to kill us all."

Nellie Connally pulled her husband down to her lap, afraid that he was already dead. Then she felt him move slightly.

"It's all right," Mrs. Connally said. "Be still."

## SECONDS OF HORROR

Beyond any man's descriptive powers, these words reveal the horror of those few seconds on Elm Street in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

The Warren Commission report preserves these heartrending words and even reveals the thoughts of Jacqueline Kennedy and the Connallys during those few moments that neither they nor history will forget.

According to the commission's report, this is what happened inside the presidential limousine at 12:29 p.m.

"Soon after the motorcade turned onto Elm Street, Mrs. Kennedy heard a sound similar to a motorcycle noise and a cry from Gov. Connally.

"On turning she saw a quizzical look on her husband's face as he raised his left hand to his throat. Mrs. Kennedy then heard a second shot and saw the President's skull torn open under the impact of the bullet."

## CRIES OUT

The commission then quotes the former First Lady.

"Oh my God, they have shot my husband," she cried. "I love you Jack."

A split second later, Mrs. Kennedy cried out again, "What are they doing to you?"

The report continues, "Mrs. Connally, too, heard a frightening noise from her right. Looking over her right shoulder, she saw that the President had both hands at his neck, but she observed no blood and heard nothing.

"She watched as he (the President) slumped down with an empty expression on his face."

Then Mrs. Connally heard a second shot and she grabbed her husband.

## BLOOD ON CHEST

For an instant, Mrs. Connally thought her husband was dead and he, "observing his blood-covered chest," thought he was mortally wounded.

"At that point," the report says, "Gov. Connally heard a shot hit

the President. Both the governor and Mrs. Connally then observed brain tissue splattered over the interior of the car."

In the next instant, Mrs. Kennedy released her husband and climbed out on the rear of the car.

## RAN TO CAR

Secret Service Agent Clinton J. Hill, who ran to the President's car when the shooting began, testified before the commission this way:

"Mrs. Kennedy had jumped up from the seat and was, it appeared to me, reaching for something coming off the right rear bumper of the car, the right rear tail, when she noticed that I was trying to climb on the car. She turned toward me and I grabbed her and put her back in the back seat, crawled up on top of the back seat and lay there."

"Mrs. Kennedy," said the commission's report, "had no recollection of climbing onto the back of the car."

The blood-splattered limousine then roared away from Elm Street.