

# Decision Cost JFK His Life

President Kennedy sat in his White House office and made a decision.

For a man who passed judgment on issues involving world peace and nuclear weapons, it didn't seem an important decision.

But it would cost his life one week later.

The President decided he would ride in a motorcade through Downtown Dallas.

The original plans for President Kennedy's visit called for a fast ride from Dallas Love Field to a Trade Mart luncheon.

Then Democratic leaders urged the President to ride in motorcades through Fort Worth and Dallas to give more voters a chance to see him. These leaders pointed out that many loyal Democrats had not received invitations to a Fort Worth breakfast or the Dallas luncheon, where the seating capacity was limited.

There were some misgivings. Washington officials recalled the spitting incident during Adlai Stevenson's visit to Dallas last month.

The President made the final decision. Confident that Secret Service agents and other officers could protect him, he approved slow-moving motorcades through both cities.

That gave a sniper his chance.