

KENNEDY CALLED

TENSE NEAR END

NYT - 8/17/65

But Secretary Says He Was

Fatalistic About Death

Before President Kennedy made his fateful trip to Texas, he remarked: "If they are going to get me, they will get me even in church."

His comment is cited by Evelyn Lincoln, his personal secretary for 12 years, including his nearly three years in the White House before he was assassinated in Dallas Nov. 22, 1963.

In a copyrighted article in The Saturday Evening Post, she relates that the day before the President made the trip, her husband, Abe, told her repeatedly that he thought Mr. Kennedy should not go to Texas.

"He got me so worried, I even mentioned Abe's fear to the President," she writes. "He didn't seem alarmed; he merely said, 'If they are going to get me, they will get me even in church.'"

However, he was strangely tense just before his departure, she says, and he was furious when he discovered that an aide's previous report that it would be cool in Texas was mistaken, and that the weather was actually warm there.

Anger Called Unusual

"He really raved and ranted," she recounts. "This was all very unusual—first, his getting so angry, and second, howling out this Navy man."

On the helicopter flight to the airport, she relates, the President sat in a chair opposite his small son, John, and teased him by kicking his foot. John said, "Don't, Daddy."

After a little while, the President nudged the boy's foot again, and again John said in a sterner voice, "don't, Daddy." It was their last contact. At the airport, John was sent back to the White House with his nurse, and the President and Mr. Ken-

nedy flew on to Texas.

Telling of various incidents and personal whims of the President during his months in office Mrs. Lincoln says he took a great interest in keeping up the lawn just outside his office.

Several times, she says, he told her to get someone to chase his daughter Caroline's pony, Macaroni, "out of my garden."

After the European trip in which Mr. Kennedy met with Nikita Khrushchev, then the Soviet Premier, Mrs. Lincoln said she came across a little slip of paper on which the President had written:

"I know there is a God—and I see a storm coming; if he has a place for me, I believe that I am ready." END