

JACKIE'S GUILT COMPLEX

How She Created JFK Legend After Failing Him in Life

Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis took on a mythical quality in the minds of most Americans after President Kennedy's death. To many she was the "dowager queen waiting for the restoration of the throne" when another Kennedy brother would be elected to the White House. But until that time, Jackie was determined to keep her husband's memory alive by building enduring memorials to him. Noted author-writer George Carpozi Jr. has dug beneath those efforts and found that she was driven to keep the JFK legend alive by a guilt complex.

In this week's installment, Jackie asks President Johnson to have Cape Canaveral renamed, promising in return to help in his campaign. You will see how she not only failed to help LBJ, but RFK, too.

By GEORGE CARPOZI JR.

Dec 1, 1968 Jacqueline Onassis's Campaign

Lady Bird Johnson had tears in her eyes as she walked out of the White House the day after President John F. Kennedy had been laid to rest in Arlington Cemetery. She had just spent a heart-rending two hours with Jacqueline Kennedy, who had summoned the new First Lady to the mansion to brief her on household details and let her meet the staff.

"When are you and the President going to move in?" a reporter asked Mrs. Johnson. The question almost seemed to annoy her.

"I wish to heaven I could serve Mrs. Kennedy's happiness," Lady Bird said in a saddened voice. "I can at least serve her convenience. I have had considerable experience in innumerable moves of children, pets, and household things and I know what moving involves. It is only when the last chore she wishes to do is done that I will contemplate moving."

From the looks of things it did not appear that Jackie had any intention of moving out quickly for the new First Family. Traditionally, widowed First Ladies have departed within two or three days — but Jackie had never been one to follow tradition.

First Jackie planned to spend the Thanksgiving holiday with the Kennedy family in Hyannis Port. But before Jackie took her children, John Jr. and Caroline, out to the airport for the flight to Hyannis Port, she stopped in the White House offices to see President Johnson. Os-

She Persuades LBJ to Rename Cape Canaveral, Then Fails to Keep Her Promise to Help Him



RUNNING MATES? After Jackie's never-fulfilled pledge to help LBJ politically, Washington correspondents speculated that she might be his choice for Vice President.

tensibly the visit was arranged so she could thank the President for all he had done for her in those difficult days following the assassination.

But imagine Johnson's surprise when Jackie all at once said to him: "Lyndon, don't you think it would be appropriate if you were to have Cape Canaveral renamed . . . after Jack. It would be a very fitting tribute to his memory."

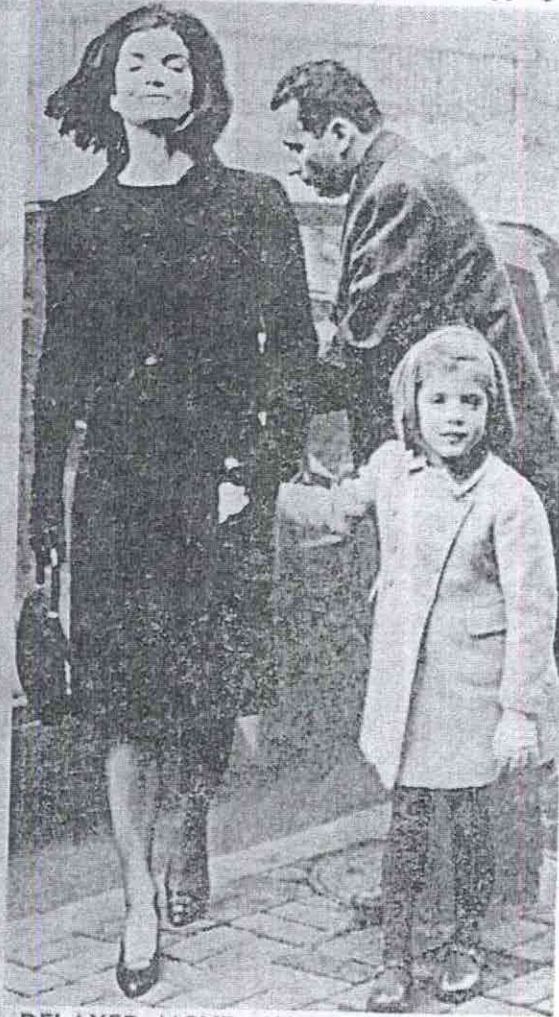
For a moment, Johnson stared blankly at the young widow. What went through his mind in those few silent seconds no one really knows, but some administration aides more than once have related the story — and everything points to a reaction of total numbness and disbelief.

In the aftermath of that uncomfortable interlude, Johnson broke the silence by saying he thought it was a splendid idea. He then asked the White House switchboard to get Florida Governor Farris Bryant on the phone.

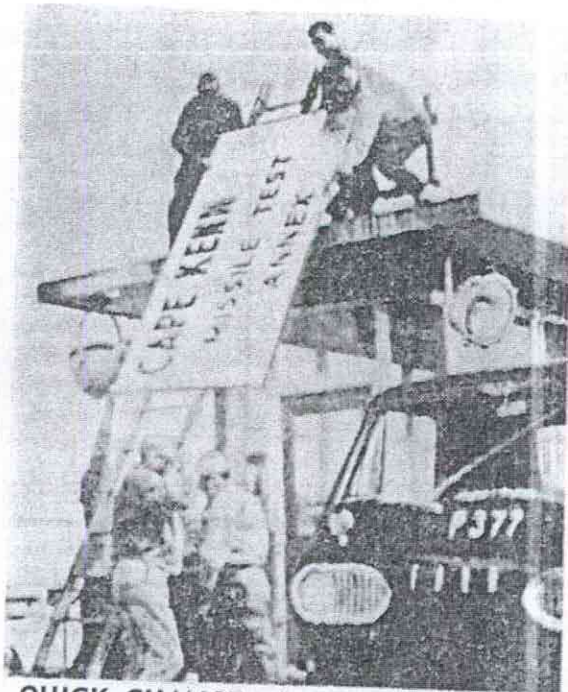
The conversation was brief. Bryant, who had no idea that Jackie was in the office with the President, is said to have told Johnson: "You know this can start a chain reaction."

Bryant's forecast was exceedingly accurate. It did indeed precipitate a nationwide stampede to rename streets, bridges, schools, hospitals, libraries, airports, and other public facilities by the thousands after the martyred President.

Old, revered names that in many instances stood as memorials to heroic Americans who had been honored for their contributions to this nation's growth and well-being, were swept aside into the valley of oblivion before the tidal wave of emotionalism and



DELAYED MOVE: Widowed Jackie and daughter Caroline leave official car to enter their temporary home in Georgetown, after moving from the White House two weeks after JFK's death.



QUICK CHANGE: Just one week after JFK was slain, missile workers lift sign, still unfinished, changing name of Cape Canaveral to Cape Kennedy.

sentimentality that followed the example set forth at Canaveral.

Of course this was what Jackie wanted — to seed JFK's name over as much of the American landscape as possible. What better way to keep her husband's name alive? What better way to clear her own conscience of the guilt complex she suffered in the belief that she had failed her husband in life?

Now, in death, Jackie was deter-

mined to do all she could to perpetuate JFK as a legend.

When Johnson completed his call to Governor Bryant, he turned to Jackie and told her, "It shall be done."

Jackie was elated. Perhaps gripped by a sense of indebtedness to Johnson, Jackie suddenly began to speak about "next November" and the Presidential campaign. She volunteered the information that she had never been really closely involved in politics and had little experience.

"Yet," she is reported to have told LBJ, "I will be willing to do anything you may think will help in your reelection campaign."

The President, who was well aware of Jackie's history as a part-time partner in her husband's political career, was surprised by the offer. But he was also delighted. At the time, the nation had not begun its great love affair with LBJ and any help from a Kennedy — especially

the tragic young widow who had taken on a mythical quality in the American mind — would indeed be welcomed.

No sooner had word of Jackie's offer to the President leaked out of the White House, than columnists and commentators had a field day speculating on her future in politics. One Washington correspondent suggested that Jackie was eminently qualified to be Johnson's running mate. Jackie's fans

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CHAIN REACTION: Jackie began a nationwide rush to rename public facilities, including N.Y.'s International Airport, shown during dedication ceremony attended by JFK's brother, Edward, and sister, Jean.

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were not confined to the press corps. Martha W. Griffiths, the Democratic Congresswoman from Michigan, suggested that Jackie be named Ambassador to France.

Moving day did not come at the White House until nearly 14 days after Kennedy's death. No First Lady in history ever went into the White House filled with as much hesitancy and hate of politics as Jackie Kennedy.

But once there, she clearly relished its monarchical aspects — with \$50,000-a-year in bills from the outstanding fashion designers, what woman wouldn't feel like a queen?

Yet even the luxury of a limitless wardrobe, the privilege of free travel anywhere in the world, and the adulation usually reserved for Hollywood stars did not warm Jackie to the capital's political atmosphere. She could never conceal her boredom for the machinations of government — or even the required duties of the First Lady.

Lunches and teas with women's groups were never Jackie's forte. Her only concession to her role was in the upper strata functions — when it came to entertaining, or visiting, royalty or heads of state. Jackie loved the spotlight, the brighter the better. She was a show-off.

Shortly after Jackie moved into the elegant home of Under Secretary of State and Mrs. Averell Harriman in Georgetown, she announced that she would observe a year of mourning — and had no plans to do any political campaigning, take part in any rallies, or make speeches. It was a widow's prerogative to make that choice. But what of her promise to Johnson?

At that juncture, Johnson couldn't care less about Jackie going back on her word. He had gone before Congress to plead for passage of the historic tax-reduction bill, which had been bogged down in committee for almost all of Kennedy's 1,000 days as President.

Of course, LBJ asked that the bill be passed as a memorial to Kennedy — and it was. But it was the begin-



LBJ'S CHOICE: LBJ showed Jackie he didn't need Kennedy help by picking Hubert Humphrey for his running mate in 1964.

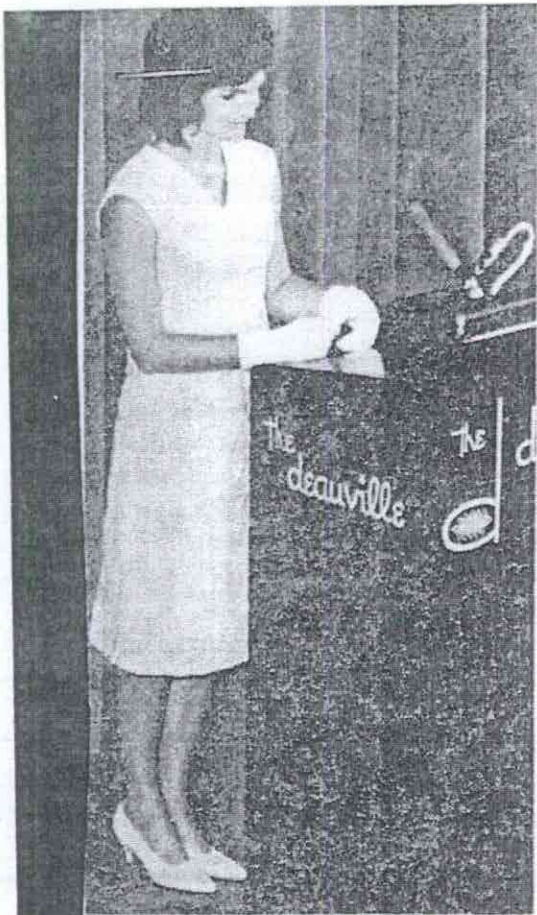
ning of Johnson's successful run with Congress in getting Kennedy legislation through — legislation that everyone agreed would have been defeated if JFK had remained alive. The nation was taking Johnson to its bosom — an evolvment that would ultimately bring an end to the cordial relation-



JACKIE'S HELPER: President Johnson (above) signs the tax reduction bill passed by Congress as a memorial to JFK and breaks ground (right) for the JFK Center for the Performing Arts in Washington.

ship that had existed between the Kennedy and Johnson families.

The animosity may have been borne in part out of LBJ's determination to project his own image upon the nation, to show that he was now President and could do things on his own. And certainly no one can claim that Johnson endeared himself to the Kennedys in mid-summer of 1964 when he ended speculation about Bobby being his running mate. Johnson shattered that



SPEAKER: To help build the JFK legend, Jackie delivered a eulogy to her husband during the 1964 Democratic convention.

dream by announcing he had ruled out all members of his cabinet for consideration for the Vice Presidency.

The simple truth was that Johnson had such an overwhelming hold on the polls that he didn't need Bobby, nor Jackie, or any other Kennedy. In fact, there was a growing opinion that the President could win even bigger if Bobby weren't on the ticket. Johnson's private attitude was — who needs him?

Evidently Jackie thought he did. It has never been a secret that Bobby had done more to console his brother's widow than any other member of the family or any friend. Bobby was Jackie's most frequent caller in Georgetown; he'd pop in many an afternoon when he thought Jackie's spirits needed bolstering, and try to comfort her.

Whether there was a leak in Jackie's secret plan is even now a matter of conjecture, but somehow shortly before the Democratic convention opened in Atlantic City, the White House was given a jolt by a report that Jackie was going to mount the rostrum and put her brother-in-law's name in nomination.

The ramifications of such a tactic were obvious. The impact of Jackie's plea for Bobby could be so overwhelming, he might be swept in. Moreover, Johnson's advisers did not overlook an even more incredible possibility — that Jackie could even stampede the



FAIR SHAKES?: Jackie spent more than five hours receiving convention delegates in 1964 but not one second to help LBJ — as she had promised — or her brother-in-law, Bobby, shown on receiving line (right) with Jackie, Lady Bird Johnson and Averell Harriman.



AWARE of what would happen if Cape Canaveral was renamed to honor the late President Kennedy, Florida's Governor Farris Bryant warned LBJ: "This can start a chain reaction."

be the reason? Presidents traditionally are in charge of their party's conventions and decide themselves beforehand who their running mates will be.

As a rule, the incumbent Vice President is renominated with the President, although Franklin D. Roosevelt did not abide by that tradition. LBJ did not have a Vice President while finishing out Kennedy's term.

But no one can deny that Johnson was the master of this convention or that he did not exercise his prerogative to pick his running mate at the most opportune moment.

That moment came just as Jackie completed a brief eulogy to her husband before 5,000 in the Deauville Hotel, where a reception honoring JFK was held before the delegates moved on to Convention Hall. President Johnson, a consummate politician, had timed his announcement in Washington perfectly.

The word hit Atlantic City just as the delegates were leaving the hotel — LBJ had picked Senator Hubert H. Humphrey for the second spot on the ticket. And he was flying to Atlantic City to put Humphrey over before the convention.

The big question now was whether Jackie, who had never shown much tolerance for politics, would still try to put Bobby over for the Vice Presidency — so he could stand in the

wings of the White House and wait to fill the role that death had robbed from her husband.

The answer came at dusk as President Johnson's jet was dropping down for a landing at Atlantic City Airport. Another plane was taking off. It was the Caroline, and aboard it was Jackie flying off to Newport.

Her sudden departure came as a surprise, even a shock to many New Frontiersmen who were certain that Jackie could have put Bobby over if she had only mounted that rostrum.

There are two versions of why Jackie

fled Atlantic City.

One is that she had sensed it was hopeless to buck Johnson's political power. The other story is that Jackie had no intention of going to the convention and placing Bobby's name in nomination. She didn't want Bobby to be the Vice President because it would take away from the web of mythology

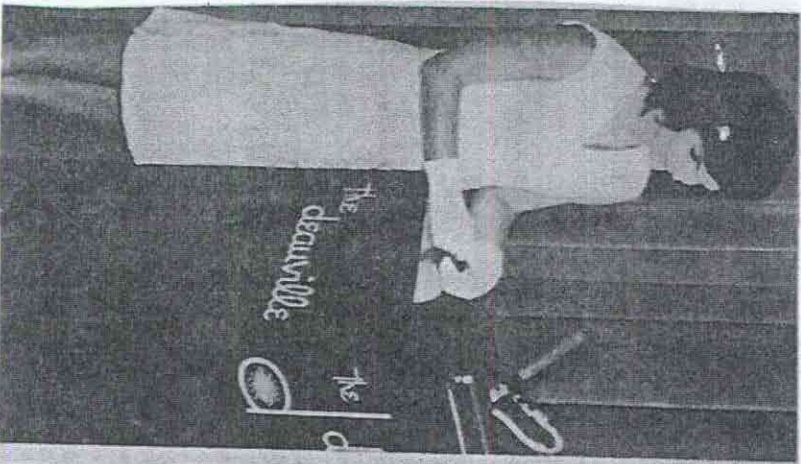
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delegates into nominating Bobby for President!

The person in the White House least disturbed by these reports and conjectures was Johnson. He had read that Jackie would observe a year of mourning. He also remembered that she had promised earlier to do all she could to help him, if he needed help in his reelection campaign. So, if Jackie went to the convention it would only be to give LBJ a boost. Or would that

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