

4 W-15820

The Des Moines Register

The Newspaper Iowa Depends Upon

Des Moines, Iowa, Saturday Morning, November 23, 1963—20 Pages—Two Sections

CHARGE PRO-CASTRO SNIPER WITH MURDER OF KENNEDY

President Is Shot In Head and Neck

DALLAS, TEX. (AP)—A furtive sniper armed with a high-powered rifle assassinated President John F. Kennedy Friday.

An hour and a half later, Vice-President Lyndon B. Johnson took the oath of office as the thirty-sixth President of the United States.

Mr. Kennedy, 46, was shot through the head and neck as he rode through Dallas in the presidential limousine in what had been a triumphal motorcade.

"Oh, No!"

When the shots were fired about 12:30 p. m. (CST) and the chief executive slumped forward, Mrs. Kennedy turned in the seat beside him and cried, "Oh, no!" in anguish and horror. His blood saturated her left stocking.

She tried to cradle his head in her arms as the limousine took off at top speed for Parkland Hospital, where Mr. Kennedy died about half an hour later.

Within the hour, police arrested a 24-year-old man after the fatal shooting of a Dallas policeman.

The man, Lee Harvey Oswald of Fort Worth, was charged late Friday night with the assassination of Mr. Kennedy.

Oswald, described as chairman of a "Fair Play for Cuba Committee," defected to Russia in 1959. He returned to the United States in 1962 with a Russian wife and a baby girl.

Oswald also was charged in the slaying of the policeman. He was seized in a movie theater about three miles from the assassination scene.

Oswald worked in the building from which the assassin's shots were fired. His supervisor said Oswald was there at the time of the assassination.

Oswald denied any connection with the shootings.

Triumphal Tour

The assassination occurred just as the President's motorcade was leaving downtown Dallas at the end of a triumphal tour through the city's crowded streets. There

were few spectators in the shooting area.

His special car — with the protective bullet-proof bubble down—was moving down in an incline into an underpass that leads to a freeway route to the Dallas Trade Mart, where he was to speak.

Witnesses heard three shots. Two were believed to have hit the President, one in the head and one in the neck.

The third shot wounded Gov. John B. Connally of Texas in the side. His condition was reported not critical.

The motorcade slowed and then sped forward at breakneck speed for 5 minutes to Parkland Hospital near the Trade Mart.

Onlookers, terrified at the sight and sound of the assassination, dived for protection onto a grassy park at the entrance of the underpass, fearing more shots. Police swarmed onto the scene.

Suit Still Neat

At the hospital emergency entrance, a reporter saw the President stretched out face down at full length, motionless on the back seat of the car. His suit still looked neat—but there was blood on the floor.

Secret Service men helped Mrs. Kennedy away from the car. Hospital attendants aided Connally and his wife.

It seemed evident that there was some planning behind the assassination.

In the Texas School Book Depository building, overlooking the underpass, officers found an old foreign-made rifle with telescopic sights, spent cartridges and scraps of fried chicken.

The rifle, described as a bolt-action, 6.5-mm. weapon, apparently of Italian make, was partly hidden behind

KENNEDY—

Children Not Told

© New York Times News Service

WASHINGTON, D. C. — President Kennedy's children, Caroline and John, jr., went to bed Friday night without having been told of their father's death.

Mrs. Kennedy apparently wished to tell them herself. She spent the night at the White House after the body of her husband was taken there from Bethesda Naval Hospital.

The children were taken from the White House at about 5:30 p. m. to an unknown destination. It was thought the children probably were taken to the home of Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy.

Continued on Page Five

KENNEDY

Continued from Page One

books on the fifth floor of the six-story building. The bullets had come from about a 45-degree angle.

Saw Rifle

Bob Jackson, a Dallas Times Herald photographer, said he looked around as he heard the shots and saw the rifle barrel disappearing into the upper floor window. He did not see the gunman.

The Secret Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Dallas police swung into action within seconds and launched what was perhaps the biggest, determined manhunt in the nation's history.

Mr. Kennedy was administered the last rites of the Roman Catholic Church shortly after he was carried into the hospital. He was the nation's first Catholic president.

Emergency treatment given the dying President was described by two physicians, Drs. Kemp Clark, 38, and Malcom Perry, 34.

Dr. Perry said Mr. Kennedy suffered a neck wound—a bullet hole in the lower part of the neck. There was a second wound in Mr. Kennedy's head but Perry was not certain whether it was inflicted by the same bullet.

The physician said the President lost consciousness as soon as he was hit and never revived.

No Hope

"We never had any hope of saving his life," said Perry, though eight or ten physicians attended him in a frantic but futile effort to keep Mr. Kennedy alive.

Clark, a brain surgeon, reported that Mr. Kennedy was given oxygen and blood transfusions, then was administered an anesthetic so an emergency tracheotomy could be performed.

During this procedure, surgeons cut a hole in the President's windpipe in an attempt to ease his breathing.

Perry said that shortly after he reached the hospital, the chief executive's heart action failed and "there was no palpable pulse beat."

The time of death was announced officially as 1 p. m. CST.

Perry was working on Mr. Kennedy's neck wound when the chief executive died. He said a bullet tore through "at midline in the lower portion of his neck in front."

Asked if that was just below the adam's apple, he said, "Yes."

Clark said Mr. Kennedy also was wounded in the

back of the head—"a large gaping wound with considerable loss of tissue." He referred to brain tissue.

The priest who administered the last rites said the President was dead when he got to the hospital.

The Very Rev. Oscar L. Huber said he had to draw back a sheet that was covering the President's face so he could anoint his forehead with oil.

Father Huber said the President's body was lying on a portable treatment table in a first-floor emergency room. In the room, he said, were the President's wife, a few of his aides and a number of Secret Service agents.

Father Huber, 70, was accompanied by another priest, the Rev. James Thompson.

Because the President was dead, Father Huber said a "short form" of conditional absolution was administered. Then the last sacrament of the church, extreme unction, or the anointing of the sick, was administered.

Everyone in the room stood during the 15-minute ceremony.

Deep Emotion

When Mrs. Kennedy entered the hospital, the stocking on her left leg was saturated with blood. Inside, she went to the Lyndon Johnsons and the three grasped hands in deep emotion.

Mrs. Kennedy was not in the emergency room when her husband died. She walked beside his bronze casket when it was taken from the hospital about 2 p. m.

Her face was sorrowful. She looked steadily at the floor.

She still wore the gay raspberry-colored suit in which she had greeted welcoming crowds in Fort Worth and Dallas.

But she had taken off the matching pillbox hat she had worn earlier in the day, and her dark hair looked windblown and tangled.

Her hand rested lightly on her husband's casket as it was taken to a waiting hearse.

Mrs. Kennedy climbed in beside the casket for the drive to Dallas' Love Field.

As the body left Parkland Hospital, a few stunned persons stood outside. Nurses and doctors, whispering among themselves, looked from the window. A larger crowd that had gathered earlier, before it was known that the President was dead, had been dispelled by Secret Service and police.

Automatic Succession

Mr. Johnson, who was not injured in the shooting, automatically succeeded to the presidency.

The new chief executive took the oath of office

at 2:39 p. m. CST. For the first time in history, the oath was administered by a woman—U. S. District Judge Sarah T. Hughes.

Mrs. Kennedy, still stained with her husband's blood, stood beside President Johnson.

Mr. Johnson was sworn in aboard the presidential jet transport—Air Force One—at Love Field. He then flew to Washington, D. C., to take over the government which Mr. Kennedy had directed since Jan 20, 1961. Mr. Kennedy's body was aboard the plane.

Mr. Kennedy's body was to be taken home to the White House to lie in state today.

Staff Stunned

Mr. Kennedy's staff members appeared stunned and bewildered. Lawrence F. O'Brien, the congressional liaison officer, and P. Kenneth O'Donnell, the appointment secretary, both long associates and friends of Mr. Kennedy, showed plain evidences of weeping.

Other staff members believed to be present for the swearing-in included Mrs. Evelyn Lincoln, the President's private secretary; David F. Powers, the White House receptionist; Pamela Turnure, Mrs. Kennedy's press secretary, and Malcolm Kilduff, the assistant White House press secretary.

It was Kilduff who announced the President's death, with choked voice and red-rimmed eyes, at 1:36 p. m. at the hospital.

"President John F. Kennedy died at approximately 1 o'clock Central Standard Time today here in Dallas," Kilduff said to a crowded room of reporters who had been traveling with the President.

"He died of a gunshot wound in the brain. I have no other details regarding the assassination of the President."

Mrs. Connally said she thinks Mr. Kennedy was hit by the first shot.

Mrs. Connally, who was seated on a jump seat to the left of her husband, said the President, seated on the right of the rear seat and Mrs. Kennedy, to his left, were chatting animatedly about the tremendous reception.

Suddenly, she said, there was a shot and Connally turned as the President crumpled back in his seat. As he turned, the governor was struck. She said a third shot may also have hit Connally in the arm.

Mrs. Kennedy grabbed the President and Mrs. Connally grabbed the governor, each supporting her husband in the wild ride to the hospital.

An aide said Connally didn't believe the President said anything after he was hit.

At the hospital entrance, the shiny White House

automobile, a manufacturers' dream, stood untouched. It had been flown 1,500 miles from Washington only to become the death vehicle of the President.

On the front seat floor lay the soft felt hat the President carried often but seldom wore. Beside it in mute comradeship was the wide-brimmed, light-colored Texas-style hat that Connally wore.

In the wide area between the seats, now cleared of its jump seats, three twisted and torn roses lay in a pool of blood on the floor. Beside them was a tattered bouquet of asters.

It all seemed so unreal. This was the conveyance of triumph for Mr. Kennedy and the First Lady, who had been smiling, shaking hands and filled with happiness at a day of meeting the folks in the streets, the airports and the hotels.

Warm Welcome

Ironically, if their reception in Texas had not been so warm, precautions might have been taken to raise the shatter-proof side glasses even though the top of the convertible was down. Such protection might have saved the President.

But Dallas, where the President's policies had raised a storm of conservative protests, had been warm in its welcome.

The President had flown to Texas on a good-will tour, speaking to citizens in the major cities and—never one to neglect practical politics—doing what he could to quiet partisan infighting among Texas Democrats.

The President and his aides had been very pleased with the way the trip had been going. In fact, a crowd of tens of thousands that saw Mr. Kennedy drive through Dallas toward his rendezvous with death was the largest and most enthusiastic of the journey.

The President already had prepared his luncheon address before he died. In his prepared text, he assailed his ultra-conservative critics.

Dallas is considered a center of conservative philosophy and finance.

Here, on Oct. 24, U. N. Ambassador Adlai E. Stevenson was spat upon by one heckler and struck by another after making a United Nations Day address.

Scores of dignitaries, police and news reporters who had a place with Mr. Kennedy in the motorcade were stunned as they grappled with the reality that a president had been shot down for the first time in 62 years.

The last presidential victim of an assassin was William McKinley, who was felled at close range in 1901 at Buffalo, N. Y., by a crazed gunman who approached him in the guise of a friend who wanted to shake hands.

Not So Bold

Mr. Kennedy's assassin was not so bold. He fired from a secret hiding place. And, though police and Secret Service agents quickly drew pistols and automatic weapons, they found no target at which to shoot.

More than a dozen Secret Service agents were within close range of Mr. Kennedy when he was shot. None of the agents was injured. All the carefully-trained agents and police could offer no effective protection, however, against the sniper.

The tragedy struck despite extensive and painstaking precautions made by the Secret Service.

Agents had checked minutely into all aspects of Mr. Kennedy's visit—the food he would eat, the flowers he would sniff, the roads he would travel, the buildings he would enter.

The quiet-spoken, confident agents were reluctant about permitting the President to speak in the Trade Mart, which has tiers of balconies around its main court. But they finally agreed, after intensive investigation.

Known Agitators

A list of known agitators in Dallas—anyone who might conceivably stir up trouble—was obtained. The Secret Service men made themselves familiar with these people and their patterns.

The motorcade route was thoroughly checked out. Trouble spots were noted, where traffic or crowd situations might get out of line.

All employes of the Trade Mart were given a once-over, along with those in the greeting party at Love Field.

The 5,000 yellow roses flown in for the luncheon were checked to ensure no bombs or damaging material was included.

An order was issued that the President would receive the same steak as the 2,500 guests. And his would be selected at random. Only by poisoning the entire crowd could anyone succeed in poisoning the President.

Mr. Kennedy was the first president to die in office since Franklin D. Roosevelt was fatally stricken with a cerebral hemorrhage at Warm Springs, Ga., in 1945.

The death of the handsome, energetic President dealt Mrs. Kennedy a second shock of anguish in less than four months.

On Aug. 9, her second son, Patrick Bouvier Kennedy, died in Boston, Mass., after some 40 hours of life.

The Kennedys had planned to go to their summer home at Hyannis Port, Mass., next week to observe Thanksgiving and celebrate the birthdays of their two children.

Son John, jr., will be three years old on Monday. Daughter Caroline will be six next Wednesday.