

6/7/68

# MOOD ON FLIGHT DESCRIBED ON TV

Vanocur Tells of Family's  
Emotional Return to City

A close friend of the Kennedy family who was on the plane that brought Robert F. Kennedy to New York last night told in a television interview of the emotion, confusion and bitterness on that flight.

Sander Vanocur, a National Broadcasting Company commentator, said in an interview on the network that Charles Evers, the Mississippi Negro

During the entire four-and-a-half-hour flight, Mr. Vanocur said Senator Edward M. Kennedy sat next to the coffin, talking with David Hackett, a classmate of Robert Kennedy. He described the Senator's mood as "mad." "He's mad at what happens in this country.

He does not know whether it is the act of a single person, or whether this is the act of a conspiracy. His brother [John] was killed by a rather faceless man whom we suspect, though we don't know for sure, was Lee Harvey Oswald.

"His brother was killed by a man they booked and arraigned as John Doe, suspect. The man who killed Dr. Martin Luther King, they do not know of. The man who killed Medgar Evers was freed, acquitted after a trial in Mississippi.

"He's mad. That's the only word I can put. Mad and sad at the same time."

In an interview after the show, Mr. Vanocur said that his appraisal of the mood on the flight was based on conversations he had had on the plane with members of the family. He refused to describe them further.

The commentator reported that about an hour away from New York the wife of the murdered Senator took a seat next to his coffin, lay her head against the purple cover and fell asleep. Jim Whitaker, a mountaineer from Washington, placed a pillow beneath her head and her rosary next to her.

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