

Clifton
Daniel JUN 3 - 1966

Editor Says JFK Wished Paper Had Prevented Invasion

ST. PAUL, Minn.—(UPI)—The late President Kennedy told the New York Times that it could have saved the nation from a "colossal mistake" if it had printed all it knew of the Bay of Pigs invasion.

Clifton Daniel, the Times' managing editor, told of his newspaper's handling of the 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion and of the Cuban missile crisis in the keynote address at Macalester College's annual forum for recent Pulitzer Prize winners.

According to Daniel, Kennedy told Turner Catledge, the Times' managing editor at the time, "If you had printed more about the operation, you would have saved us from a colossal mistake."

* * *

DANIEL SAID Kennedy told the late Orvil Dryfoos, then the Times' publisher, in 1962, "I wish you had run everything on Cuba . . . I am just sorry you didn't tell it at the time." Daniel said the Times "toned down" a story filed by Tad Szulc about the planned Bay of Pigs invasion on the advice of its Washington Bureau Chief, James Reston. The Times, over heated protests from two of its editors, deleted the statement that the invasion was "imminent," Daniel said.

Daniel said Reston still believes that the Times acted properly and in the interests of national security. He quoted Reston as having said recently that "it is ridiculous to think that publishing the fact that the invasion was imminent would have avoided this disaster."

Daniel also told of President Kennedy's request to the Times in 1962 to delay its publication of a report about Soviet missiles in Cuba.

He said the President called Dryfoos directly, explained that he needed another day to complete preparations for the showdown with the Soviet Union and asked the Times to delay the story.

* * *

DRYFOOS CONFERRED
with Reston, Daniel said, and

Reston in turn asked the President "whether it was the government's intention to shed blood before letting the country know what was happening.

"Reston was assured that was not the intention . . . and the news was withheld until the government announced it."

Daniel said he has concluded from his experience that "information is essential to people who propose to govern themselves and it is the responsibility of serious journalists to supply that information."