

Memorial At Site Of JFK Murder

By Michael Dorman
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Dallas — Sixteen minutes short of 30 years after the precise moment when John F. Kennedy was assassinated, the site of his murder was dedicated as a national landmark yesterday amid repeated pleas for Americans to remember his life as well as his death.

Under brilliant Texas sunshine reminiscent of the day of the assassination, several thousand people gathered in Dealey Plaza — within a few hundred yards of the sixth-floor window where the Warren Commission ruled the fatal shots were fired — for the dedication ceremony. Nellie Connally — widow of former Texas Gov. John Connally, who was wounded by one of the assassin's bullets — unveiled a plaque attesting that the site had been designated a landmark by the U.S. Interior Department.

"Thirty years ago today, fate brought me here as an unwilling player in the most tragic moment of our time," said Connally, who was seated beside her husband in the front seat of the presidential limousine when the shots were fired. Now, she said, she had come back willingly "with the hope that the legacy of John F. Kennedy will inspire young people to direct their lives to preserving the nation's heritage."

Security was extremely tight, with traffic cut off throughout the area, police officers and barricades circling the plaza, police helicopters overhead and squad cars and motorcycles constantly on the move.

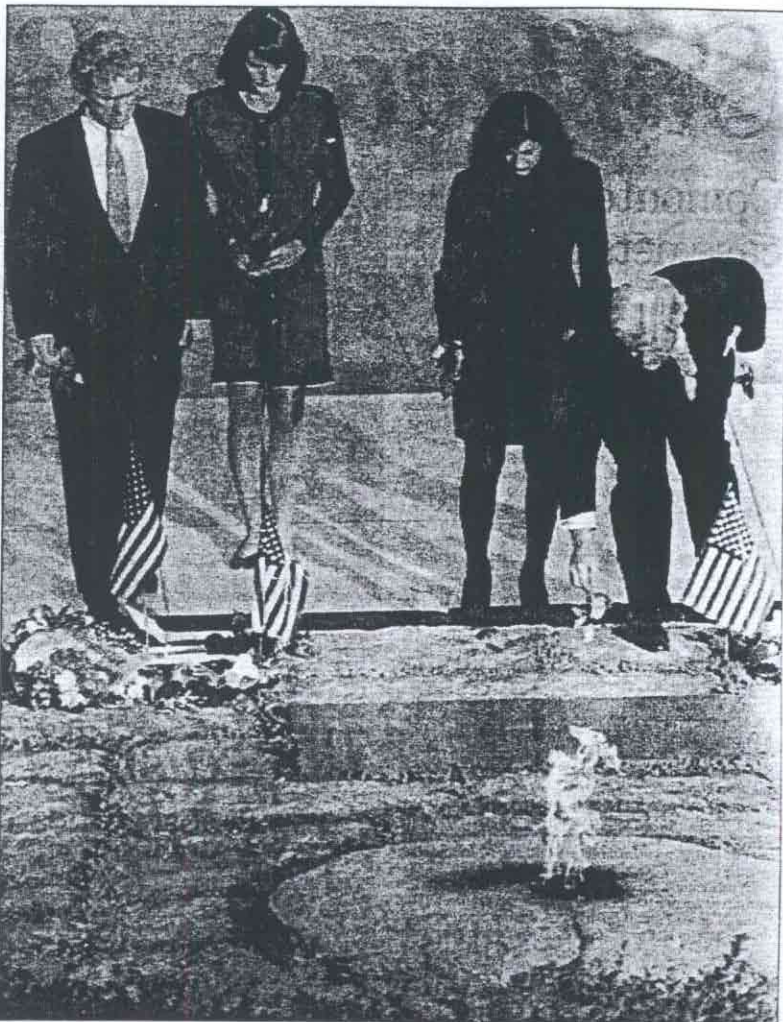
Federal Judge Barefoot Sanders, who had been appointed U.S. Attorney in Dallas by Kennedy and was also riding in the motorcade 30 years ago, told the crowd: "The sadness and frustration was impossible to describe. Today, and every November twenty-second, we reveal ourselves as a nation by remembering John F. Kennedy. We remember him most of all for the hope and inspiration he brought us. 'Ask not what your country can do for you' seems now to be more recognizable by the reverse than the observance."

Sanders said he was confident that would not have been the case if Kennedy had lived. "He symbolized what could be," Sanders said.

Assistant Interior Secretary Bob Armstrong, representing the Clinton administration, urged Americans not to dwell merely on Kennedy's death. "When I think of this spot as a national landmark, I'll think not of an end but a beginning," Armstrong said. "I'll think of John F. Kennedy's invitation to become a part of this country, and I'll thank him."

At Arlington National Cemetery, Kennedy's sole surviving brother, Sen. Edward Kennedy, and other family members visited the late president's grave along with a stream of visitors who stopped briefly throughout the day. In Dublin, the late president's sister, Jean Kennedy Smith, who is now U.S. ambassador to Ireland, led a memorial Mass for her brother.

Michael Dorman, a freelance writer, covered the Kennedy assassination for Newsday. His books include "The Secret Service Story." This story was supplemented with news service reports.



At JFK's grave in Arlington, Va.: from left, Rep. Joseph Kennedy, a nephew, his wife, Elizabeth, Sen. Edward Kennedy's wife, Victoria, and Sen. Kennedy.

Clinton on JFK Assassin *Oswald acted alone, president believes*

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington — Disputing the view held by most Americans, President Bill Clinton said yesterday that he believes Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

On the 30th anniversary of Kennedy's death in Dallas, Clinton also said he was satisfied with the Secret Service's efforts to protect him. Even so, the president said, "it's impossible for a democratic leader in a free world, I think, to live in a shell."

At a news conference, Clinton was asked if he felt

the Kennedy assassination case was closed and that Oswald had acted alone.

"I'm satisfied with the finding that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone," the president said without elaboration.

"One of the greatest things a president has to guard against all the time," Clinton said, "is just becoming isolated from the feelings, the concerns, the

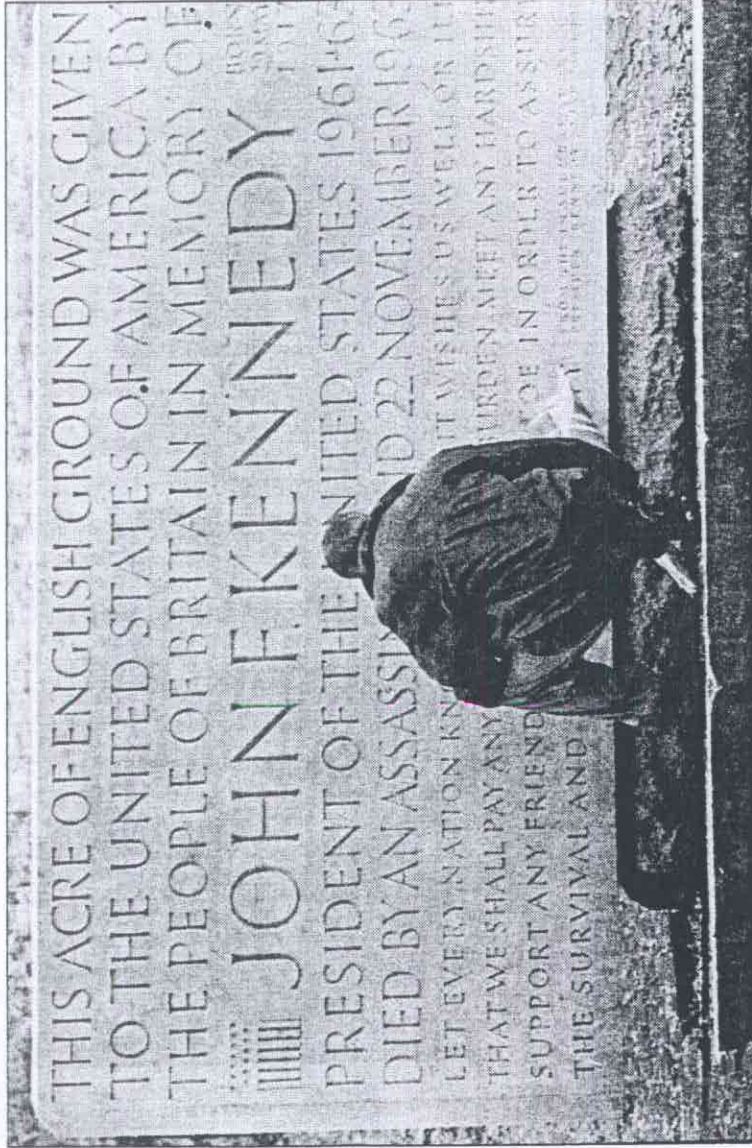
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Clinton: Oswald Was Lone Sniper In Dallas

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conditions of daily life that all other Americans have to confront. And so there's always going to be a tension if you lead a free country and you're accountable to all the citizens of that country, between the desire, the legitimate desire, of the security forces to protect you and the desire that I have not to lose touch and get totally out of sync with the lives of all the people whom I must represent."

An Associated Press poll taken Nov. 5-9 found that just 15 percent of Americans felt Oswald acted alone, while 71 percent believed he was part of a conspiracy. Eighty-two percent of the respondents said Americans have not been told the whole truth about the assassination, while 12 percent said they had been told everything.



AP Photo
BRITISH MEMORIAL Mourner visits Runnymede, England, marker that was dedicated in 1965 in memory of John F. Kennedy. In 1215, at Runnymede, barons forced King John to grant the Magna Carta, limiting the king's powers.

WORLD BRIEFS

S. Africa Session
Child B, as the spokeswoman

death, his lawyer said yesterday in Preston, England.
Child B, as the spokeswoman

NATION BRIEFS

\$1M Settlement

