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KENNEDY ACCEPTS GIFT FOR LIBRARY

'State of Union' Books to Go Into Memorial Collection

By MURRAY SCHUMACH

With a couple of quips, Senator Robert F. Kennedy accepted yesterday, in behalf of the John F. Kennedy Memorial Library, a three-volume set containing the more than 2-million words of all the Presidential State of the Union Messages.

Prof. Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr. of the City University, who wrote a preface to the work, made the presentation in a room at the Overseas Press Club, 54 West 40th Street.

"In view of the fact that you've had nothing to do lately," he told the senator, "I just thought I'd give you—"

"Something to read," the senator broke in.

Photographers then urged the Senator to smile. He stared at the 10 pounds of books and said, "Give me something to laugh about."

At the time, he knew that just across the hall dozens of reporters and an array of television cameras waited—in vain—to question him on William Manchester's book about his brother's assassination, "Death of a President."

"The State of the Union Messages of the Presidents" was published by Chelsea House. According to the editor of the \$45 set, Fred L. Israel, assistant professor of history at City College, these 178 messages had never been collected before.

In his preface, Professor Schlesinger says the State of the Union message "has become, after vicissitudes, a basic tool in his [the President's] management of Congress and a potent instrument of national leadership."

Work on the book began in November, 1965.

One of the laborious chores was compiling the 79-page index, for which Mr. Israel and James Watts Jr., assistant professor of history at City College, had the assistance of 30 students.