

JOHNNY, WE HARDLY KNEW YE:
Memories of John Fitzgerald Kennedy.
Kenneth P. O'Donnell and David F. Powers with Joe McCarthy. Little, Brown, \$8.95

Not a shred of sentimentality, but a rare and honest love permeates every paragraph of this book written by the two men closest to the late President Kennedy outside of his family. They were with him from his first campaign for Congress in 1946, and their deeply personal memoir in its seemingly total recall includes some real revelations, political and personal. According to O'Donnell and Powers, JFK had decided, just prior to Dallas, to put serious pressure on the South Vietnamese government to reduce its police state policies, and he issued an order to withdraw 1,000 American troops—an order, they say, that was quietly rescinded by LBJ before Kennedy was in his grave. One of the significant revelations is found in an account of a private talk an enraged and bewildered O'Donnell had with JFK, who had just decided to offer the Vice-Presidency to Lyndon Johnson. "I'm forty-three years old, and I'm the healthiest candidate for President . . . I'm not going to die in office. So the Vice Presidency doesn't mean anything. . ." Reading this book may be a deeply emotional experience for many; it

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