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SPOKANE, WASH., NOV. 21 (AP)--THE ASSASSINATION OF THE LATE PRESIDENT KENNEDY TWO YEARS AGO FORCED "A CLEARER KIND OF THINKING ABOUT THE KIND OF PEOPLE. . .WE WANT TO BE" AND "FAR FROM DISRUPTING OUR COUNTRY, KEPT IT STRONG," SEN. EDWARD M. KENNEDY, D-MASS., SAID HERE TODAY.

KENNEDY, YOUNGEST BROTHER OF THE SLAIN PRESIDENT, DELIVERED THE DEDICATORY ADDRESS AT THE NEW \$1.1 MILLION JOHN F. KENNEDY PAVILION AT GONZAGA UNIVERSITY.

"THERE ARE TIMES IN THE HISTORY OF A NATION WHEN A SINGLE EVENT OCCURS WITH SUCH IMPACT THAT PEOPLE STOP FOR A WHILE, AND SEARCH THEIR SOULS," KENNEDY TOLD SOME 6,000 PERSONS ASSEMBLED IN THE NEW FIELDHOUSE.

"THERE ARE OCCASIONS ON WHICH THE VERY SENSELESSNESS OF TRAGEDY FORCES A CLEARER KIND OF THINKING ABOUT THE KIND OF PEOPLE AND THE KIND OF NATION WE WANT TO BE," HE ADDED.

"THIS HAPPENED AT THAT TIME. FOR WHEN THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY SAW WHAT HATRED AND EXTREMISM COULD PRODUCE, THEY REASSESSED THEIR OWN COURSE, AND SOME OF THEIR OWN WAYS OF THINKING ABOUT MANY OF THE PROBLEMS OF OUR COUNTRY," KENNEDY SAID.

HE POINTED THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT, THE WAR ON POVERTY, IMMIGRATION LAW REFORMS AND FEDERAL PROGRAMS OF HEALTH CARE, AID TO EDUCATION AND TAX REFORMS, AS EXAMPLES OF THE PROGRESS THAT RESULTED.

"IN A SENSE, THE VERY EXCESSES OF EXTREMISM, WHEN SHOWN IN THEIR MOST SHOCKING LIGHT, CREATED A REACTION IN WHICH THE JUST AND HUMANE INSTINCTS OF OUR PEOPLE CAME TO THE FORE.

"A NEW TOLERANCE REPLACED BITTERNESS.

"A NEW UNDERSTANDING REPLACED RANCOR.

"WE HAVE SEEN, OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS, THAT THE ACTIONS THAT WERE TAKEN, FAR FROM DISRUPTING OUR COUNTRY, KEPT IT STRONG. FAR FROM FORCING OUR PEOPLE TO COMPETE FOR JOBS, THEY CREATED NEW JOBS. FAR FROM LOWERING THE STANDARDS OF AMERICAN LIFE, THEY IMPROVED THEM.

"SO IN MANY WAYS, WE ARE A BETTER COUNTRY TODAY, NOT JUST BECAUSE OF THE EFFORTS HE MADE AND THE INSPIRATION HE GAVE; NOT JUST BECAUSE OF THE PEACE CORPS AND THE ALLIANCE FOR PROGRESS AND THE BILL THAT PASSED CONGRESS...BUT BECAUSE OF THE RESURGENCE OF OUR PEOPLE, AND THEIR NEW UNDERSTANDING AND DESIRE TO WORK TOGETHER. WITHOUT THIS SUPPORT NO PRESIDENT CAN SUCCEED. WITHOUT IT, NO COUNTRY CAN FAIL," KENNEDY SAID.

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