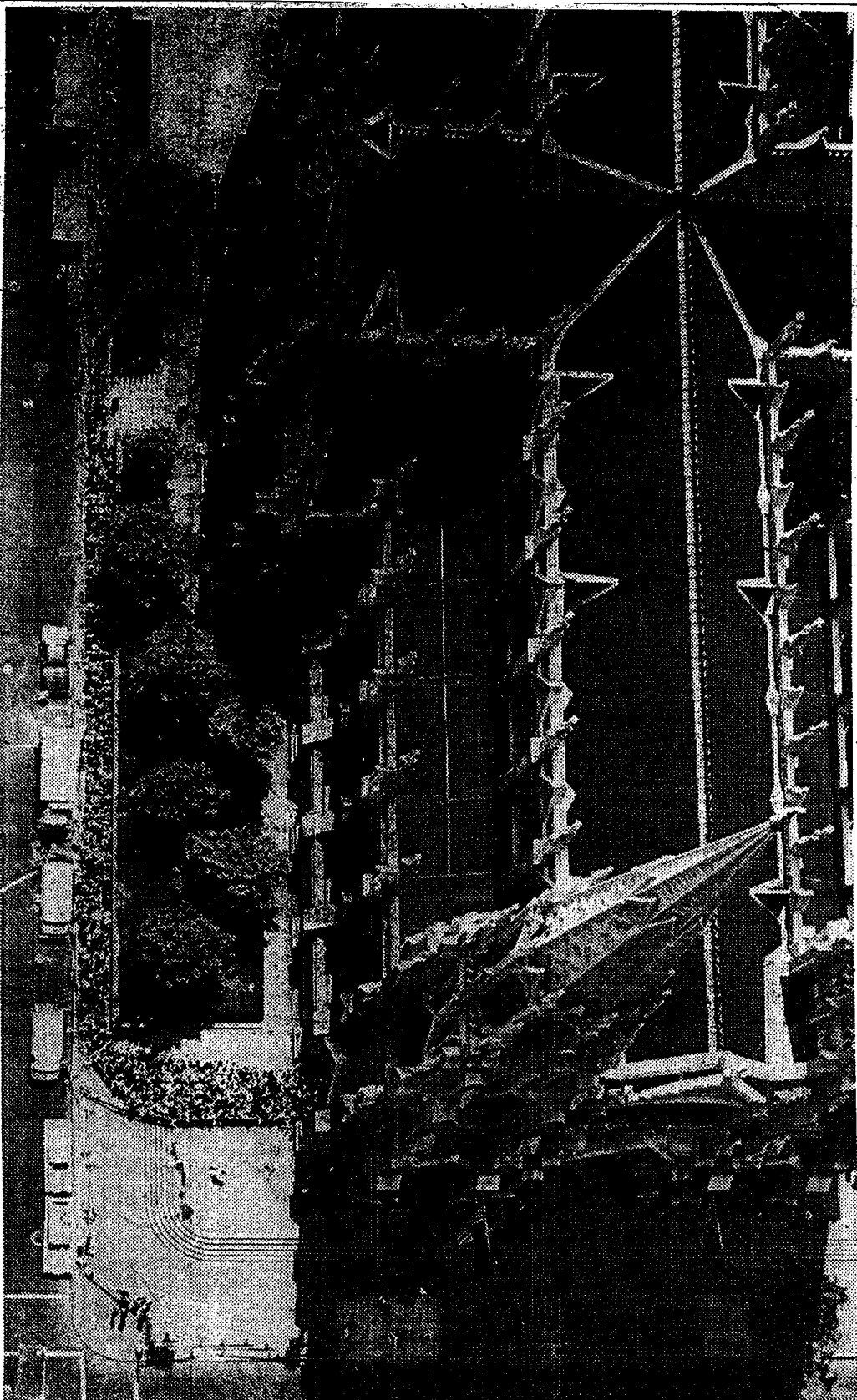


# New York Times

—NEW YORK, SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 1968—

## 70,000 FILE PAST KENNEDY'S BIER; FINAL RITES IN ARLINGTON TODAY



Mourners moving west on 51st Street to enter St. Patrick's Cathedral and pass Robert F. Kennedy's closed coffin. The view is from a helicopter.

The New York Times (By Meyer Leibowitz)



EARLY ARRIVALS at St. Patrick's Cathedral pass Senator Edward M. Kennedy, at end of pew, as they move down aisle to view his brother's coffin

The New York Times

# A MILE-LONG LINE

Rich, Poor, Young, Old  
Wait Up to 5 Hours  
—Heat Falls 100

By J. ANTHONY LUKAS

What Robert F. Kennedy was fond of calling America's "multitude of counselors" streamed past his bier yesterday in a vast outpouring of silent communion.

By 8:30 last night, more than 70,000 persons had filed by the Senator's African mahogany coffin set at the head of the mosaic central aisle of St. Patrick's Cathedral.

And nearly 100,000 more waited on the sidewalks out-

side in a serpentine queue which wound more than a mile among the glass and steel office towers and the stately old apartment buildings of midtown Manhattan.

The cathedral will be open to mourners until early this morning when it will be closed to prepare for a 10 A.M. solemn requiem mass for Senator Kennedy. The mass will be attended by 2,000 persons, including political leaders from this and other countries, family friends and other dignitaries. President Johnson is expected to fly here for it.

## Train to Carry Body

Afterward, the body will be taken in a motorcade to Pennsylvania Station, where it will be put on a 22-car funeral train for Washington. A funeral procession will proceed to Arlington National Cemetery, where Senator Kennedy will be buried, presumably near the grave of his brother, the late John F. Kennedy.

At the cathedral, the most striking aspect of the crowd—aside from its sheer size—was its incredible diversity.

World statesmen in formal dark suits stood next to Harlem school boys in torn levis and sneakers; Wall street stockbrokers with morocco briefcases under their arms walked behind flower children with daisy chains wound in their hair; suburban housewives in trim fashionable suits waited side by side with young Puerto Rican girls who fingered worn rosary beads.

The Senator often cited the Biblical aphorism, "In a multitude of counselors there is safety," to stress the importance of diversity in a democracy. The bewildering diversity of those who turned out to mourn him yesterday was proof that his message had found an echo in virtually every segment of society.

Most striking of all was the

Continued on Page 10, Column 1

# ARLINGTON RITES THIS AFTERNOON

22-Car Funeral Train Will  
Leave for Capital After  
Requiem Mass Here

Continued From Page 1, Col. 8

response from the poor and the underprivileged, the racial and religious minorities, those he called the "forgotten people" of the land, as well as the young for whom he was a symbol of change. At times every fourth or fifth face in the line seemed to be that of a Negro or Puerto Rican, and about a third of the mourners seemed to be under 21 or very near that age.

This diversity was underlined by an unusual form of vigil devised by the Senator's family and friends. Instead of the usual military guard of honor around the bier, his coffin was guarded by a constantly shifting group of six men or boys drawn from the humble as well as the exalted ranks of his admirers.

Among those who stood solemnly by the six smoking amber tapers next to the bier were Robert S. McNamara, president of the World Bank and former Secretary of Defense; Thomas Watson, chairman of the board of the International Business Machines Corporation; Rowland Evans, a Washington columnist and close friend of the Kennedy family; R. Sargent Shriver, Ambassador to France and the Senator's brother-in-law, and Arthur Schlesinger Jr., a long-time advisor to the Kennedys.

But there were others, too, like Tom Hayden, one of the founders of Students for a Democratic Society and a leading figure of the new left; Charles Evers, a Mississippi civil rights leader whose brother, Medgar, was assassinated in 1963; Rafer Johnson, a former Olympic decathlon champion, and Chuck McDowell, a former Peace Corps volunteer who now works for the city poverty program.

## Boy Surprised and Honored

And there was Kenneth Roberts, a 14-year-old Negro boy who is an eighth grader at Junior High School 143 in Washington Heights.

Kenneth, like several other vigil-keepers, was picked out of the crowd in the cathedral by Kennedy aides. He stood stiffly for about five minutes at the foot of the bier in a green and white sweater, button-down shirt and black and gold striped tie.

"It was a strange feeling," he said later. "I was surprised and honored. I didn't know what to think." Kenneth said he had seen the Senator only once alive, when he came to campaign for the Senate in 1964 in Washington Heights. "He was a very nice person,"

Kenneth recalled.

Some of those who passed by the coffin yesterday were disappointed that they could not see the Senator's body. All day long Thursday, the Kennedy family and associates said they were not sure whether the coffin would be open or closed.

But when the cathedral's big bronze doors swung open at 5:30 yesterday morning the coffin lid was in place "at the request of the family," officials

of the Archdiocese explained.

Until early afternoon, the shiny mahogany surface was unadorned, reflecting the two huge banks of television lights which helped make the inside of the cathedral even more sweltering than it would have been with temperatures in the low nineties.

But about 1:35 P.M., aides brought out an American flag and laid it over the coffin, the stars over the Senator's head, which, according to Catholic tradition, lay at the end away from the altar.

Kennedy aides said later that the flag had been brought late because it had been "specially made to fit the coffin." However, a cathedral usher, William Felton, said Mrs. John F. Kennedy, widow of the late President, had asked the flag to be brought after she visited the cathedral late in the morning.

From then on, the passing mourners who had merely touched the unadorned bier, often picked at the folds of the flag and some knelt and kissed it.

Most of the mourners were dry-eyed and in control. As they approached the bier they would glance down at it, some bowing their heads in reverence, others shaking their heads in apparent disbelief at an event they could still not comprehend.

Catholics crossed themselves as they passed the bier and some genuflected briefly at the head of the nave.

However, there were some for whom the moment was too painful, for whom the assassination of a second Kennedy brother in the space of only five years was a personal loss they could no longer conceal.

## Some Collapse in Grief

In midafternoon an elderly woman with long stringy hair and dressed in a faded print dress collapsed sobbing on the red and white stripes of the flag at the foot of the bier. Directly above her Mr. Schlesinger stared impassively at the stained-glass windows, with the television lights glinting on his spectacles. Within a few seconds, policemen took the weeping woman by the arms and led her away.

Earlier, a woman in black became hysterical as she approached the bier and shrieked out her grief in incomprehensible bursts. A young girl, in a bright yellow dress, broke into low moans, holding her hands

to her breast. Both were also led off with great gentleness by husky policemen.

Some persons, most of them women, collapsed on the sidewalk even before they reached the cathedral—apparently from a combination of the intense heat and pent-up emotion.

During much of the day, mourners had to stand three and a half hours in the blistering sun and high humidity, shuffling along at what often seemed to them an incredibly slow pace. Some reported they had been in line for up to five hours.

The meandering line shifted its route several times during the day. But by midafternoon it began at 47th Street and Lexington Avenue, ran up the west side of Lexington to 53d Street, west along the south side of 53d Street to Park Avenue, south on the east side of Park to 47th Street, across Park Avenue to the west side and up to 51st Street, then finally west along the south side of 51st Street to the Cathedral's northwest entrance.

Men stripped off their coats, took off their ties and rolled up their sleeves. Some women took off their shoes and carried them in their hand. But nothing helped very much.

More than 100 persons were reported to have fainted by late afternoon. Many of them were treated at an emergency first-aid station set up in the First National City Bank at 53d Street and Park Avenue by the bank's medical department. Others were assisted by a police emergency unit.

The police set up a rest area in the shade of broad-leaved maple trees around the cathedral where mourners overcome by the heat could slump on four wooden folding chairs and drink from plastic jugs of cold water.

At one spot, Red Cross efforts to hand out cold water resulted in one of the few disturbances of an otherwise remarkably orderly day. The

thirsting throng was so eager for a cooling drink that they nearly overturned the police barriers and the policemen had to press hard against the barriers to hold them in place.

#### Police Hold One Man

The only other incident reported by the police during daylight hours ended when a man who identified himself as Julius Young, 25 years old, of 23 Riverside Drive, was taken into custody after a scuffle

with a policeman at 50th street and Fifth Avenue.

At the 51st Street station-house where Mr. Young was taken for questioning, the police said the man had been acting in a disorderly manner and had refused to obey orders by Patrolman James Fucci. During the scuffle, they said, Mr. Young had grabbed the patrolman by the throat with sufficient force to leave fingernail marks.

Otherwise, the crowd showed what struck most observers as remarkable restraint and understanding, considering the conditions. Police Commissioner Howard R. Leary, who arrived at the cathedral shortly after 6 P.M. to supervise the police operations, said the crowd's behavior all day had been "exceptional."

When some persons tried to cut into line they rarely met the New York snarl they would have encountered on other days. People frequently just stepped back and let them join the line. Some of those in line showed others how to make paper sun hats out of discarded newspapers. Others tried to help old or tired people get water.

There was a marked contrast between those waiting to enter the cathedral on the north and those who emerged 15 to

20 minutes later on the south.

Before they entered, the crowd seemed cheerful and sometimes even boisterous. Dressed in bright colored sports shirts and trim print dresses, they bought ice cream, orange juice and Kennedy buttons from street vendors. One button vendor sold almost 75 buttons in three hours for 50 cents each ("frankly I'm not very proud of myself," he confessed to a newsman, "but the people are willing to pay.")

At one point during the late afternoon, a small group burst into "We Shall Overcome," once the anthem of the civil rights movement.

But when they emerged from the south door after passing the bier, most wore somber, strained looks. The gray stone wall on the 50th street sidewalk became almost a wailing wall as women leaned against it, overcome with grief. Some were openly weeping.