

# John Kennedy's Doctor Found Him Fatalistic on

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1968

## Risks of Office

John F. Kennedy "accepted the personal risks of the Presidency knowingly and fatalistically," according to Dr. Janet G. Travell, who was his personal physician before and during his tenure in the White House.

"I will not live in fear," the President said "shortly before his assassination," according to an article written by Dr. Travell in the December issue of McCall's magazine. "What will be must be."

Dr. Travell, who began to treat Mr. Kennedy's chronic back ailment in 1955, also wrote of other indications that he had thought of the possibility of his assassination.

In November, 1960, after he had been elected President, Dr. Travell recalled, the President said to her, "What do you think of the rule that for the last hundred years every President of the United States elected in a year divisible by 20 died in office?"

After the President named the Presidential deaths covered by the "rule," Dr. Travell said she replied, "You don't really believe such a coincidence can continue? The odds against it are too great, and anyway, you aren't superstitious."

### Kennedy Didn't Reply

"He looked at me silently," Dr. Travell said of the President's reaction.

On another occasion, she wrote, the President said, "as worry about a second term? My wife will have a pension, and my children will be well cared for."

Dr. Travell, whose article if to himself, "Why should I was condensed from her book, which is scheduled for publication by the World Publishing Company, recounted that the President once told her:

"Don't go into my medical problems with Jackie. I don't want her to think she married either an old man or a cripple."

Dr. Travell described her reaction to the President's death: ". . . I could not grasp the numbing fact of the assassination, but deep in my consciousness I realized that I had ex-

pected it. I did not feel the shock of surprise. John Kennedy had accepted the personal risks of the Presidency knowingly and fatalistically."

### Mass Held For Senator

At St. Luke's Church in McLego, Vt., yesterday, about 200 persons attended an 8:30 A.M. mass for Robert F. Kennedy on the 43d anniversary of the late New York Senator's birth.

Among them were Senator Edward M. Kennedy and eight of Robert Kennedy's 10 chil-

dren, including David and Michael, who served as acolytes.

Earlier, Edward Kennedy and several of Robert Kennedy's children visited his grave in Arlington Cemetery and placed flowers on it.

In New York, Mrs. Aristotle S. Onassis, the former Mrs. John F. Kennedy, went to a regular mass at 7 A.M. at St. Thomas More's Church at 65 East 89th Street.

Senator Edward Kennedy's wife, Joan and two sisters, Mrs. Patricia Kennedy Lawford and

Mrs. Stephen Smith, attended a morning mass here at Holy Family Church, 315 East 47th St.

A mass will be said tomorrow at Holy Trinity Church in Dallas for the late President

Kennedy. The Very Rev. Oscar L. Hubert, former priest at Holy Trinity, administered the last rites to the President at Parkland Memorial Hospital after Mr. Kennedy was shot on Nov. 22 five years ago.



United Press International

**AT ROBERT F. KENNEDY'S GRAVE:** Senator Edward M. Kennedy at grave of the Senator in Arlington National Cemetery yesterday, 43d anniversary of his birth. Kennedy children kneel with him. On wreath marked "Bobby,"

are words, "I dream" and "Ask why not," apparent reference to a quote from Shaw used by Senator in campaign. "Some men see things as they are and say, why? I dream things that never were and say, why not?"