

21 JAN 1967
231 PES

EA34WX

ADVANCE FOR 6:30 P.M. EST

(400) AMS BUDGET

MRS. KENNEDY FUNDS

(ADVANCE) WASHINGTON, JAN. 21 (AP)-AT THE REQUEST OF MRS. JOHN F. KENNEDY, THE GOVERNMENT WILL CEASE SUPPLYING HER WITH FUNDS FOR OFFICE AND CLERICAL HELP, EFFECTIVE NEXT JULY 1.

THE PRESIDENT'S WIDOW IS RECEIVING \$30,000 FOR THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR TO HELP HER COPE WITH MASSIVE CORRESPONDENCE AND OTHER BUSINESS TRACING TO HER HUSBAND'S DEATH. IN EARLIER FISCAL YEARS SINCE THE ASSASSINATION THE FUND WAS \$50,000.

THE OFFICE OF SEN. EDWARD M. KENNEDY, D-MASS., MRS. KENNEDY'S BROTHER-IN-LAW, MADE PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN HER, PRESIDENT JOHNSON AND A BUDGET BUREAU OFFICIAL WHICH WOULD TERMINATE THE ALLOTMENT.

IN HER LETTER TO PRESIDENT JOHNSON, MRS. KENNEDY SAID:

"FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS THE CONGRESS HAS BEEN MOST UNDERSTANDING AND GENEROUS IN GRANTING ME THE FUNDS TO MAINTAIN AN OFFICE FOR MY OFFICIAL BUSINESS. THIS OFFICE MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR ME TO HANDLE THE GREAT VOLUME OF MAIL WHICH I HAVE CONTINUALLY RECEIVED."

MRS. KENNEDY NOTED THAT IN THE FALL OF 1965 SHE HAD ADVISED THAT THE VOLUME OF BUSINESS AND MAIL HAD FALLED OFF TO THE POINT THAT SHE FELT HER STAFF AND OTHER EXPENSES COULD BE CUT BACK ACCORDINGLY. THIS WAS DONE.

"NOW," SHE WROTE, "THE WORK AT MY OFFICE, ALTHOUGH STILL CONSIDERABLE, HAS DIMINISHED ENOUGH SO THAT I CAN PERSONALLY ASSUME THE BURDEN OF MY OWN OFFICIAL BUSINESS. THEREFORE, I NO LONGER WISH A GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATION FOR THIS PURPOSE."

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REPLYING FOR THE PRESIDENT, DEPUTY BUDGET DIRECTOR PHILLIP S. HUGHES ACKNOWLEDGED MRS. KENNEDY'S "GRACIOUS NOTE" TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND SAID "WE APPRECIATE YOUR INFORMING US THAT YOU NO LONGER REQUIRE EVEN THE REDUCED APPROPRIATION WHICH WAS MADE LAST YEAR."

HUGHES EXPLAINED THAT THE BUDGET FOR THE COMING FISCAL YEAR ALREADY HAS BEEN PRINTED SHOWING THE SAME AMOUNT FOR FISCAL 1968 AS WAS MADE AVAILABLE FOR FISCAL 1967.

HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THE GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION-- THE GOVERNMENT'S HOUSEKEEPING ESTABLISHMENT--"WILL ADVISE THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE THAT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH YOUR REQUEST, NO FURTHER APPROPRIATION IS BEING REQUESTED."

THESE ACTIONS DO NOT AFFECT THE \$10,000 ANNUAL PENSION DUE THE WIDOW OF A PRESIDENT NOR, FOR THE MOMENT, THE SECRET SERVICE PROTECTION PROVIDED FOR A PRESIDENTIAL WIDOW AND MINOR CHILDREN.

A SECRET SERVICE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE LAW PROVIDES, UNLESS DECLINED, PROTECTION BY THE SERVICE TO THE WIDOW AND MINOR CHILDREN FOR FOUR YEARS AFTER A PRESIDENT'S DEATH. THIS WOULD CARRY THE PROTECTION OF MRS. KENNEDY AND HER CHILDREN TO NOV. 22, 1967.

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