

# Kennedy Family's Poignant Farewell

## New York

The members of the Kennedy family came again and again yesterday to pay their respects to Senator Robert F. Kennedy resting in his bier at St. Patrick's Cathedral.

Apparently the private hours of mourning and farewell set aside for the family were not enough. They kept slipping into the cathedral in the public hours after 10 a.m., while he lay in state and thousands waited outside to say farewell to the Senator at his casket.

The strict composure and stoic dignity with which the Kennedys conduct themselves in their public tragedies were evident. But occa-

sionally there were little gestures that escaped and gave glimpses of the grief underneath those set faces.

## KISS

Ethel Kennedy blew a kiss to the casket. Robert F. Kennedy Jr., 14, cried. Jacqueline Kennedy faltered and had to be helped up.

For television audiences, though, the Kennedys were mostly silent, praying figures.

The widow of the Senator and her three eldest children, Kahleen, Joseph and Robert Jr., paid a few minutes' visit to the cathedral at noon. They folded their arms against the coffin in prayer, broken only when a clergyman leaned over to whisper to Mrs. Kennedy.

Jacqueline Kennedy had a bright, hard stare on her face when she went in with Burke Marshall, former Deputy Attorney General, half an hour later. But on an earlier visit, when the cathedral was still closed to the public, she wept beside the coffin and had to be helped to her feet.

## CAROLINE

She was composed when she returned later in the afternoon with her children, Caroline and John. If they remembered a similar scene at their father's coffin, 4½ years ago they did not show it. But Caroline's eyes were red, and they all touched the coffin as they left.

The Senator's eldest son, Joseph, by late afternoon had returned to the cathedral three times to stand quietly, without saying a word, before the coffin.

Robert Jr. was struggling with his emotions when he stood in the honor guard around the coffin in the morning. His tears overflowed, and he knelt to kiss the coffin.

The Senator's mother, Mrs. Joseph P. Kennedy, made three early trips to the cathedral. Once when she sat in a pew to pray, strangers from the line of visitors moved in protectively to shield her from photographers. She sat by herself praying for the third son she had lost by violent death.

Rose Kennedy was wearing black and a veil when she left St. Patrick's Cathedral at 9:15 a.m. escorted by a policeman. Her head was high and she moved lightly along through the crowds who did not recognize her.

## VIGIL

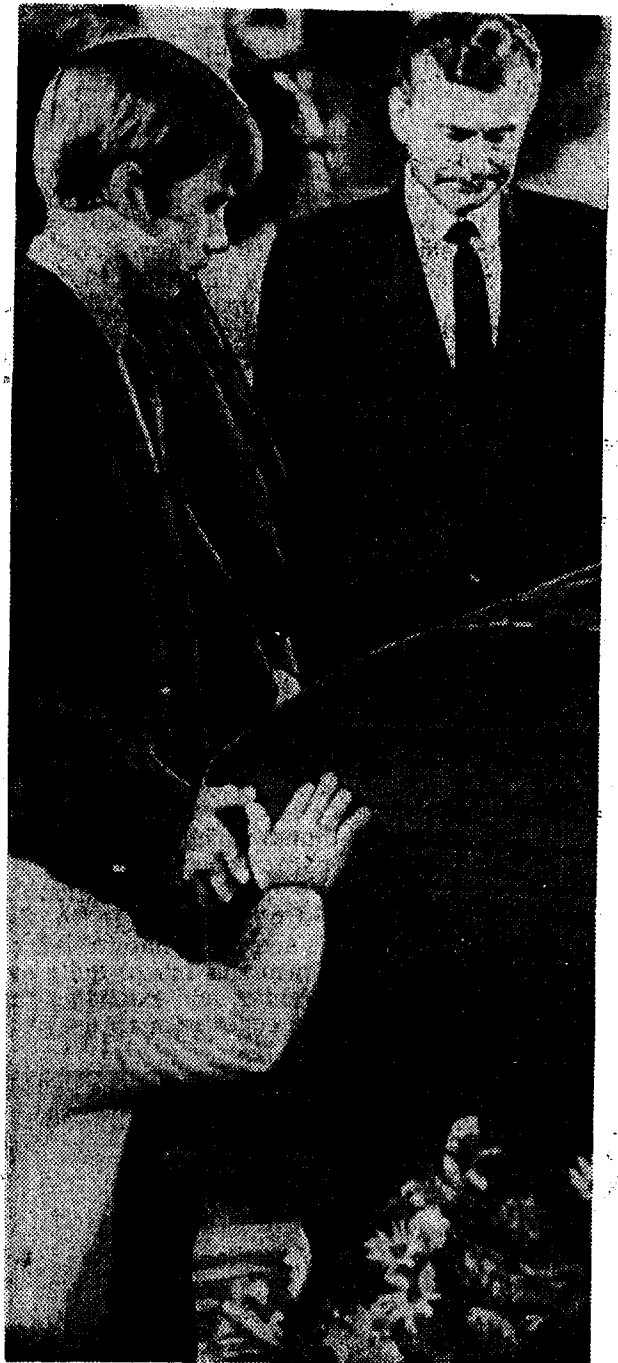
The long, pre-funeral vigil began Thursday night when Senator Kennedy's family escorted his coffin to the catafalque in St. Patrick's where it will lie, sealed, for public viewing until shortly before the Requiem Mass this morning at 10 a.m.

Throughout the night, Kennedy's brother, Senator Edward Kennedy, remained at its side. At 5:30 a.m., friends and relatives took up the vigil, four at a time at 30-minute intervals.

Shortly before 5 p.m., he returned again to the cathedral, joined the public line at the front of the church to walk slowly with the other mourners to the casket, then took a seat in a pew near the coffin.

Friends and old associates of the late Senator formed the honor guard in groups of six.

Times-Post Service



UPI Telephoto  
ROBERT JR. AND JACK PAAR STOOD VIGIL  
A woman's hand rested lightly on the casket