

The New York Times (by Neal Boenzi)

Mostly, the grieving throng was silent and composed. But a girl buried her face against the chest of her escort; tears poured from a woman's eyes; a man, overcome, was led away.



Grief Lay Ahead for Those in Line

By MURRAY SCHUMACH

Tears were rare as scores of thousands of people waited six hours and more in long lines before entering St. Patrick's Cathedral to pass quickly by the coffin of Senator Robert F. Kennedy. But their grief was deep and often overwhelming when they left the church less than 10 minutes after they had entered it.

Then their faces were drawn, their eyes were wet and the sobbing was often uncontrollable.

The contrast was typical of the strange atmosphere along the lines that stretched for a mile and a quarter in 90-degree heat that prostrated hundreds of people.

*

Directly across 53d Street, the First National City Bank set up a first-aid center in its air-conditioned lobby, using its own medical personnel. Most of those treated

appeared to be teen-aged girls. Some of them pleaded to be allowed to get back in line.

Seagrams Distillers connected a hose to its water supply and made plastic cups available as the line crept past its building on 53d Street east of Park Avenue.

Young people who had already been waiting in line for two hours spent more hours on the promenade above the sidewalk, filling cups with water and handing them down to those in line.

Those who drank the water tossed the cups back up to the volunteers to be refilled and given to others.

John Dent, a legal clerk with the United States Attorney's office, said after having given water to the thirsty for a few hours: "Deep down, I think there's good in nearly all of us."

*

Just north of the Park Avenue entrance of the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, Farrell Gunning was peddling buttons for \$1 apiece to those in line.

The buttons, about two inches in diameter, said: "In Memory of a Great American. Robert F. Kennedy. 1925-1968." He said he had paid 25 cents apiece for the buttons that morning. In less than an hour he had sold his supply of 100.

On Lexington Avenue other

NEWS INDEX

	Page		Page
Antiques	28	Man in the News	6
Art	26-27	Music	22-24
Books	29	Obituaries	31
Bridge	28	Screen	22-24
Business	48-49	Ships and Air	50
Churches	25	Society	19
Crossword	29	Sports	34-38
Editorials	30	Theaters	22-24
Fashions	20	TV and Radio	51
Financial	39-49	Wash. Proceedings	18
Food	20	Weather	50

FOR THOSE ON LINE

Continued From Page 1, Col. 7

peddlers were selling them for 50 cents.

*

The most irritating problem for the police handling the generally orderly lines was to head off and pluck out persons who tried to sneak in ahead of those who had waited for hours.

A policeman on 51st Street near Madison Avenue said after pulling out one such person:

"People come to pay their respects in a church and even then they have to try to cut corners."

*

Along Lexington Avenue, near 50th Street, a middle-aged

police barrier and began to harangue those in line on the virtues of Americanism. Eventually, the police eased him away. A woman, watching the orator depart, said:

"What do you do? He had a captive audience. In a hall you can get up and leave."

Bright summer clothes for women and sports shirts and slacks for men seemed to be the customary attire. Although some had the foresight to come with umbrellas, very few brought hats to protect themselves against the sun.

Those who were in line near two den mothers with a Cub Scout group from Brooklyn were lucky. The den mothers, Mrs. Mary Kellner and Mrs. Anne Fulton, salvaged newspapers from the street and made dozens of paper hats.

*

On Lexington Avenue, near

cream cones. Nearby a small group softly sang "We Shall Overcome."

*

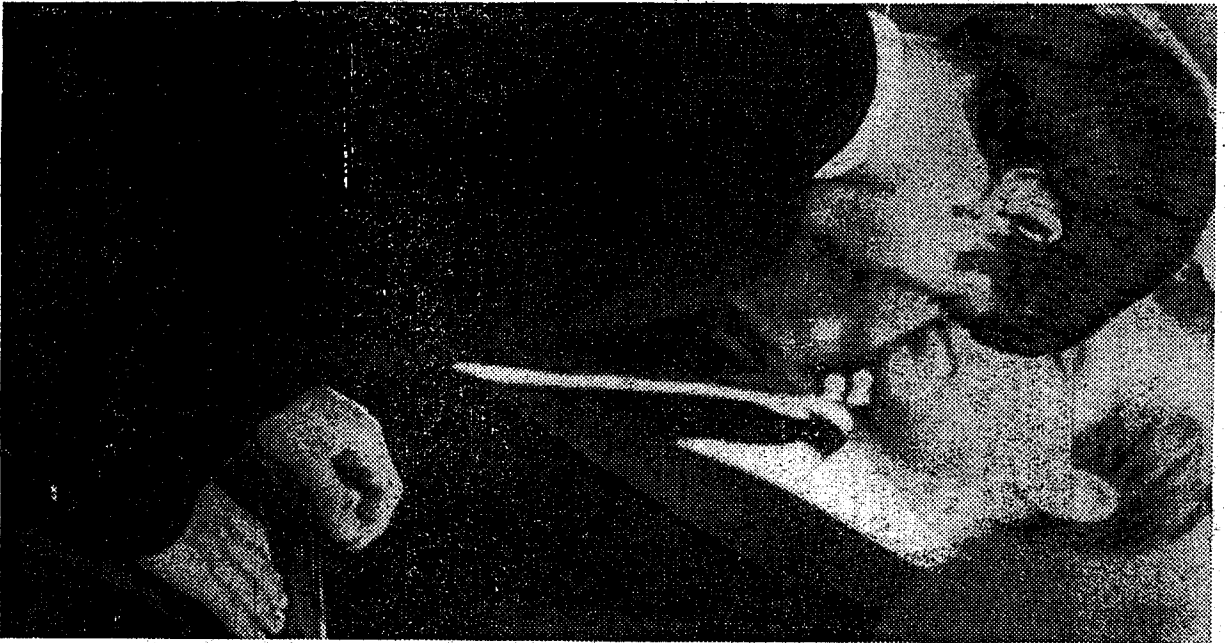
The tolerance of the huge throng was extraordinary. A young man wearing a "McCarthy for President" button was asked if anyone in the line had objected to it.

"This is not that kind of a crowd," he replied.

*

Paul Jackson, 15 years old, was asked, after two hours in line, why he was there. He replied:

"He came through Bedford-Stuyvesant when he was running for Senator. He smiled and I reached up to shake his hand. He shook my hand. I told my mother this morning I was coming to see him. Here I am."



CLOSEST RELATIVES at St. Patrick's Cathedral were, from left, Mrs. Joseph P. Kennedy, the Senator's mother; Robert F. Kennedy Jr., his 14-year-old son; the Senator's widow, Ethel

The New York Times (by Larry Morris)

Associated Press