

# Old Friends Meet for Sad Task Of Issuing Invitations to a Mass

By RICHARD REEVES

More than 100 men and women who had given part of their lives to the Kennedy legend sorted out thousands and thousands of names in an all-night effort to select the 2,100 people invited to the requiem mass today for Robert F. Kennedy.

It was a long night of sad reunion for Robert S. McNamara, Angela Novello, David Hackett, Edwin O. Guthman and the others who began gathering in a 30th-floor office in the Pan American Building on Thursday night.

By late yesterday morning, after visits and conferences with Mrs. John F. Kennedy and Senator Edward M. Kennedy, they send 75-word telegrams signed "The Kennedy Family" that began: "You are invited to attend a requiem mass in memory of Robert Francis Kennedy at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City on

Saturday, June 8, 1968, at 10 A. M."

Although old friends and colleagues sometimes embraced, there was almost no unnecessary conversation as they worked in the offices of a real estate brokerage, Park Agency, Inc. That concern headed by the late Senator's brother-in-law, Stephen E. Smith, is responsible for managing the Kennedy family's \$300-million fortune.

"Leverett Saltonstall?" asked Miss Novello, who was Robert Kennedy's personal secretary for 15 years. Some of the men nodded and after approval from the family a telegram was sent to the 75-year-old Massachusetts Republican who had served in the Senate with John F. Kennedy.

In an office that was marked with a scrawled sign, "Honor Guard," by David Hackett, a prep school classmate and close friend of the late senator supervised telephone calls to men chosen to stand half-hour vigils at Robert Kennedy's coffin.

"See if you can find Sam Davis in London," said George Stevens Jr., the movie producer, who wanted to know if the entertainer could fly here in time to stand vigil.

## Names Put on Chart

A girl behind Mr. Stevens wrote the names of the honor guard on a large wall chart.

Another girl said: "Joseph Barr, the Mayor of Pittsburgh called and asked to be invited." He was.

Edward Kennedy came after midnight and a girl typing a list headed "New York V.I.P.s" quickly turned away when she saw his puffed face and red eyes.

He talked quietly with Mr. McNamara, the former Secretary of Defense; Nicholas deB. Katzenbach, who was Robert Kennedy's assistant in the Justice Department and is now Under Secretary of State, and Mr. Guthman, the national editor of The Los Angeles Times, who was once Mr. Kennedy's press secretary.

In the hallway outside the offices, old Kennedy hands walked busily but silently in their shirt sleeves—Kenneth O'Donnell, who was President Kennedy's appointments secretary; Angier Biddle Duke, the State Department's chief of protocol; John Seigenthaler, editor of The Nashville Tennessean; George Plimpton, the writer; Pierre Salinger and Frank Markiewicz, the Kennedy press secretaries, and the bright young men who worked in Robert Kennedy's office, Adam Walinsky and Peter Edelman.

"Where will these people go now?" said one of the men in the office. It was an unanswered and undiscussed question.