

70,000 File Quietly Past Kennedy's Bier

SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 1968

in Line Extending More Than a Mile

Varied Pattern for City in Grief; Business Is Mixed With Tributes

By RICHARD F. SHEPARD

Except for the visible throng of mourners at St. Patrick's Cathedral, the city's distress over the killing of Senator Robert F. Kennedy remained an underground emotion yesterday. It was there, but not on the city's face.

There was a quieter tempo to New York life in many areas. Conversations were less likely to dwell on the shooting as they had the two previous days, although there was no doubt it was still the No. 1 topic. Downtown, jackhammers roared, traffic jammed and shoppers flocked the streets.

Public and parochial schools were closed, freeing more than 1 million children for going to parks, playgrounds and pools. Many of them rejoiced too much in an unexpected three-day weekend to be aware that they were out of school in tribute to the Senator.

Many Cars' Lights On

In some boroughs, families went to the beaches, many with their automobile lights on in memory of Senator Kennedy. Whatever they did, New Yorkers were quick to respond when they were asked what the assassination meant to them. Most were still hurt, indignant and horrified.

And they combined business as usual with unusual gestures of respect for Senator Kennedy. About 300 worshippers, mostly garment center workers, appeared for a special mass for Senator Kennedy at 11:30 A.M. at the Church of Holy Innocents on West 37th Street, off Broadway. Several of them chatted about the "terrible tragedy" as they left.

Virtually all state and municipal offices and courts were closed yesterday, giving Foley Square a funereally quiet air. Yet, the noontime crowds in narrow Nassau Street to the south were as thick as usual.

There is a little patch of pavement on Nassau, just north of Wall Street, which has become a traditional spot for afternoon debate by more-or-less regulars who break up into floating panels. On Thursday, the arguments had been wholly on the topic of the assassination—"plot," "rightists," "gun control law"—but yesterday they were focused on the youth problem, apparently having exhausted all aspects of the Kennedy situation.

Some Businesses Closed

About half of the city's business offices closed at noon, according to the Commerce and Industry Association of New York. It estimated that only 1 per cent did not open at all. Wall Street had an active day, with more than 17 million shares traded.

Banks, which had closed in tribute to the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s death, remained open yesterday. It was explained by the Commerce and Industry Association that Friday is regular payday for many of the city's wage-earners and that it was important to get checks out before the weekend.

Today, according to the Fifth Avenue Association, most major stores will remain closed until 12:30 P.M. All public libraries were shut yesterday and will not reopen until Monday. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, the American Museum of Natural History and the Brooklyn Museum were closed yesterday but will be open today.

In Newark, Mayor Hugh J. Addonizio proclaimed a week of mourning and ordered City Hall draped with bunting. Uniformed policemen and firemen will wear mourning bands

over their shields, as they did for Dr. King.

All facilities at the Madison Square Garden Center, including guided tours, the bowling center and the gallery of art, will be closed until Monday. The Hotel Pierre canceled its Sunday cafe concert.

Black Ribbons for Cabs

Following a suggestion by Harry Van Arsdale, president of the Taxi Drivers Union, Local 3036, some 6,800 fleet cabs, more than half of those in the city, will display black ribbons in their rear left windows through Monday in honor of Senator Kennedy.

A memorial mass was held at Our Lady of the Skies Chapel at Kennedy International Airport, with many of the participants bringing with them personal memories of the Senator and his family, who passed through the terminal as constant commuters.

All Broadway and Off Broadway shows will perform as scheduled today. However, what was to have been the last performance of "Spofford" has been cancelled for tomorrow, as well as the Sunday performances of "Hair" on Broadway and "Now" on Off Broadway. "Futz" has cancelled its Sunday preview at the Theatre de Lys and postponed its opening from Tuesday to Thursday.

A Sunday matinee preview performance of "A Moon for the Misbegotten" at the Circle in the Square has been cancelled, but the evening show will go on. "Dionysius in 69" has called off its Sunday performance.

Curtailment of Movies

All Loew's motion picture theaters will close until 5 P.M. today, except for the Capitol and State, which will give their regularly scheduled reserved-seat performances. The Radio City Music Hall and all RKO theaters will also open at 5 P.M. The Rugoff Theaters will open about noon today as usual, except for the Cinema Manhasset and the Avenue U, in Brooklyn, which open at 5 P.M.

Sixty-six United Artist-affiliated theaters in the New York area will also be closed today until 5 P.M.

St. John's University will pay tribute to Senator Kennedy tomorrow at its baccalaureate and commencement ceremonies, where a mass will be offered for him. The principal concelebrant will be Archbishop Luigi Raimondi, Apostolic Delegate to the United States.

The Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken has postponed its graduation exercises from this morning to Monday evening. Commencement exercises scheduled for tomorrow at Edward Williams College of Fairleigh Dickinson University have been postponed from tomorrow until June 16.