

Aboard Kennedy Plane: Deep but Restrained Hurt

By JOHN HERBERS

"There was probably more emotion, more deep hurt, aboard that plane than we will ever know, but it was restrained, it was really restrained."

This was the comment yesterday of one of some 70 friends, relatives and staff members of Senator Robert F. Kennedy who accompanied his body from Los Angeles to New York aboard a White House jet Thursday.

Senator Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts never left his brother's coffin during the four-and-a-half hour flight on the 707 Air Force plane provided by President Johnson.

Ethel Kennedy moved about the cabin like a gracious hostess, talking to those aboard. For a while she lay down next to the coffin and went to sleep. The coffin, draped with a maroon cloth, was in the front section of the plane, most of the passengers in the rear. During the flight various persons came forward to keep the vigil.

Three Journalists Aboard

The prevailing mood was one of deep hurt but little display of bitterness, one of the staff members aboard said. Virtually all of those on the plane had been close to the Senator and felt an intense loyalty to him, his Presidential aspirations and the entire Kennedy family.

Thus, most of them regarded what went on aboard the plane as private and would speak of it only in general terms. There were no news representatives,

as such, aboard the plane. Three journalists—Sander Vanocur of the National Broadcasting Company and two newspaper columnists, Joseph Kraft and Roland Evans—were invited as friends of the family.

Mr. Vanocur talked at length about the flight on television shortly after the plane arrived here. One of his disclosures aroused a new controversy involving Mayor Samuel Yorty of Los Angeles.

Yorty Reported Rebuffed

He quoted Frank Mankiewicz, Senator Kennedy's press secretary, as telling Mayor Yorty, who had come to the airport to see the plane off, that his presence would be offensive to Mrs. Kennedy.

"If I had to pick the three institutions, or figures, that the Kennedy people on the plane felt seriously about, Sam Yorty would be one, The New York Times would be another, and Drew Pearson would be the third," he said.

Yesterday, however, Mr. Vanocur said in a telephone interview that he was not referring to what was said aboard the plane but to feelings that had existed previously within the Kennedy Presidential campaign. He said he had been cut off before he could clarify this point.

Senator Kennedy and Mayor Yorty had been on unfriendly terms since 1960, when the Mayor, a Democrat, supported Richard M. Nixon, a Republican for President against John

F. Kennedy, the Democratic nominee.

On Aug. 23, 1966, Senator Kennedy and Mayor Yorty had a bitter exchange of words before a Senate subcommittee studying urban problems. Senator Kennedy suggested that Mr. Yorty had not made it clear to the poor that they would be given a chance to improve their lot and Mr. Yorty replied: "Certainly, Mr. Senator, they won't have the chance you had."

Motorcade Incident

Mayor Yorty opposed Senator Kennedy in the California Presidential primary and once during the campaign the Los Angeles police, in the opinion of the Kennedy forces, harassed the Senator's motorcade.

It was May 29, the day after the Oregon primary. Thousands swarmed into the street around the Senator's car, but every time he would try to address them from the motorcade he would be drowned out by a police loudspeaker warning the people that their lives were in danger. Later in the day, the Kennedy people said, the police gave the entire motorcade a traffic ticket.

On Thursday, Mayor Yorty remained in the terminal and did not go to the plane after talking to Mr. Mankiewicz, but he arrived here last night to attend the Kennedy funeral as a representative of his city. Mr. Mankiewicz said the would be welcomed.

"My differences with Senator Kennedy in the past were po-

litical and not personal," the Mayor said.

As to The Times, Senator Kennedy and some of his associates had said privately, to representatives of the paper and others, that they believed editorials and other matter in The Times was damaging to the Kennedy campaign. One example was an editorial, based on a Times news story, that was critical of the Kennedy spending in the Indiana primary.

As to Mr. Pearson, the Kennedy people were upset by some of his newspaper columns. One recent column reported that Senator Kennedy had authorized the tapping of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s telephone lines when Mr. Kennedy was Attorney General.

Mr. Vanocur's account of the vigil at the coffin was confirmed by others aboard the plane.

"About one hour out of New York tonight," he said, "Edward Kennedy fell asleep and Mrs. Robert Kennedy came up and lay against the coffin. And about 10 minutes later, as I judge, Jim Whitaker, who is a famous mountaineer from the state of Washington, came up and put a pillow underneath her, and her rosary beads.

"She woke up for a moment, looked at him, then fell asleep against the coffin. Her son, Joe Kennedy, was with her at the moment and when Jim Whitaker didn't know what to do with the beads, Joe suggested that he just put them down next to her."