

Senator Mourned at Ciudad Kennedy

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CIUDAD KENNEDY, Colombia, June 9—Like many residents of this vast low-income development, Mrs. Carmen de Patiño has two decorations on her living room wall. One is a colored picture of Jesus. The other is a photograph of John F. Kennedy.

"Now I will have to get one of Robert for the other side," Mrs. Patiño said today. "We all had such hopes for him. My God, what days!"

Outside in the gloomy morning children played in the dirt streets. Across the square, a group of 150 residents, working unpaid, put in blocks of sod around the new Red Cross medical center. Up and down the wide avenues, the Colombian flag flew at half-staff. Those who had no flag had hung out bits of black ribbon.

In the patio before Our Lady of Nacarena Church, 3,000 inhabitants of the city were joining the United States in this day of mourning. Women in black veils and men with worn hats in their hands crowded close. Behind them files of Sunday school children stood patiently under the overcast sky. There was hardly a sound.

"The disappearance of Senator Robert Kennedy has injured the hopes of all the towns and all the people and all the Hearts of Colombia," the speaker for the development said.

Like the people of America, we feel frustration. We loved him so much, we hoped for him so much. Our hearts cry with those around the grave at the cemetery of Arlington."

U. S. Anthem Played

The loudspeakers played a scratchy record of "The Star-Spangled Banner" and the memorial was over. As United States Ambassador, Reynold E. Carlson, was pressing through the crowd, a woman in black reached out to clutch his arm. "I'm sorry," she said over and over. "I'm sorry."

Around the corner is a plaque marking the place where President Kennedy laid the cornerstone for this Alliance for Progress project on Dec. 17, 1961. There are now almost 150,000 people living in its low brick houses just outside Bogota.

The Rev. Thomas Carney, a missionary working in the area, asked a small boy at the plaque what he had felt when he heard that Senator Kennedy was dead. "Remorse, father, remorse," the boy said.

In Ciudad Kennedy, as in most places in Latin America, "Kennedy" is the only name known in American politics. It is almost universally associated among ordinary people with the Good the United States has done. Yesterday, El Tiempo,

one of Bogota's leading newspapers, made this observation on its editorial page:

No Interest in the Others

"Latin America lost a great friend in Senator Kennedy. We have absolutely no interest in the other candidates. Nixon took with him painful impressions. We do not know McCarthy or Humphrey."

In her plain living room, Mrs. Patiño said that Senator Ken-

nedy popularity had nothing to do with politics or world standing. "He was one of the family," she said. "He was the darling of everyone here. Everyone. Even if he had been a Protestant, we would have loved him for his consolation of the poor."

Mrs. Patiño has two children. The oldest, who is 7, is named Edward. "They say he will be President," she said of the Senator's surviving brother.

Wilkins Praises Kennedy At St. Francis Graduation

Senator Robert F. Kennedy was praised Saturday by Roy Wilkins, executive director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, for his efforts to bring about interracial justice.

Mr. Wilkins said that as Attorney General Mr. Kennedy "had more civil rights cases in courts than had all his predecessors combined."

Mr. Wilkins spoke at the 84th annual commencement exercises of St. Francis College in Brooklyn, which were held in the Brooklyn Academy of Music. He received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree in recognition of "his 37 years as an effective, constructive leader of the movement which has greatly advanced the goals of Negroes."

A memorial ceremony for Senator Kennedy preceded the graduation exercises and were described by the Rev. Brother Urban Gonnoud, president of the college, as "a memorial to the Senator, who gave so much and meant so much to young people."