

(550) PMS BUDGET

MRS. KENNEDY

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WASHINGTON, NOV. 25 (AP)—"I TOLD MRS. KENNEDY THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS DEAD.

"SHE WALKED TO THE TABLE, TOUCHED THE FOOT AND KISSED THE INSTEP, THEN WALKED TO THE SIDE OF THE TABLE AND FELT HIS HAND."

IN THOSE WORDS, WHITE HOUSE PHYSICIAN GEORGE G. BURKLEY TOLD OF THE MOMENT MRS. JOHN F. KENNEDY LEARNED AN ASSASSIN'S BULLETS HAD KILLED HER HUSBAND IN DALLAS.

BURKLEY WROTE HIS REPORT ON NOV. 27, 1963, FIVE DAYS AFTER PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY WAS KILLED. IT IS AMONG THE EXHIBITS MADE PUBLIC MONDAY BY THE WARREN COMMISSION.

BURKLEY ALSO TOLD OF MRS. KENNEDY'S DETERMINATION TO REMAIN WITH THE BODY, AND OF RETURNING TO HER TWO OF THE ROSES SHE HAD CARRIED DURING THE FATEFUL MOTORCADE.

BURKLEY, WHO HAD BEEN IN THE MOTORCADE, ARRIVED AT PARKLAND HOSPITAL THREE TO FIVE MINUTES AFTER KENNEDY WAS BROUGHT THERE.

"I WENT DIRECTLY TO THE EMERGENCY ROOM . . ." HE TOLD THE COMMISSION, "AND MRS. KENNEDY WAS SEATED IN A FOLDING CHAIR DIRECTLY BESIDE THE DOOR OF THE SMALL ROOM IN WHICH THE PRESIDENT WAS BEING OBSERVED."

BURKLEY WENT INSIDE.

"IT WAS EVIDENT THAT DEATH WAS IMMINENT AND THAT HE WAS IN A HOPELESS CONDITION," BURKLEY SAID.

A3WX

HE LEFT AND TALKED WITH MRS. KENNEDY OUTSIDE.

"SHE EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO BE IN THE ROOM," BURKLEY SAID. "REALIZING THAT DEATH WAS IMMINENT AND THAT IT WAS SO RIGHT TO BE AS CLOSE AS SHE COULD, I OVERRODE THE PROTESTS OF SOME OF THE PEOPLE IN THE ROOM AND BROUGHT MRS. KENNEDY INSIDE THE DOOR, WHERE SHE STOOD AND WITH MY ARMS PROTECTING HER, SHE MOMENTARILY RESTED HER HEAD ON MY SHOULDER.

"AT ONE POINT SHE KNELT IN PRAYER FOR A FEW SECONDS AND THEN AROSE AND STOOD QUIETLY."

ANOTHER PHYSICIAN SAID KENNEDY'S LIFE WAS GONE, AND BURKLEY VERIFIED THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS DEAD.

THEN HE TOLD MRS. KENNEDY.

BURKLEY SAID THE UPPER PORTION OF THE PRESIDENT'S BODY WAS COVERED BY A WHITE CLOTH.

A PRIEST ADMINISTERED THE LAST RITES OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH.

"I ASKED HIM TO RECITE THE PRAYERS FOR THE DEAD, WHICH HE DID AND THE RESPONSE WAS MADE BY MRS. KENNEDY AND ME," BURKLEY SAID.

OUTSIDE AGAIN, MRS. KENNEDY INSISTED ON REMAINING WITH THE BODY UNTIL IT WAS RETURNED TO WASHINGTON AND THE WHITE HOUSE.

BURKLEY SAID A DALLAS MEDICAL EXAMINER RULED KENNEDY'S REMAINS COULD NOT BE MOVED, THAT HOMICIDE CASE PROCEDURES MUST BE FOLLOWED.

"I INFORMED HIM AGAIN THAT IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT WE HAVE HIM MOVED IMMEDIATELY AS MRS. KENNEDY WAS GOING TO STAY EXACTLY WHERE SHE WAS UNTIL MOVEMENT WAS EFFECTED," BURKLEY SAID.

THERE WAS SOME DELAY, BUT FINALLY, LOCAL OFFICIALS AGREED. MRS. KENNEDY FOLLOWED THE COFFIN, AND BURKLEY TOOK A LAST LOOK AT THE EMERGENCY ROOM.

A9WX

"THE ROSES WHICH HAD BEEN IN THE CAR WITH THE PRESIDENT WERE IN THE WASTEBASKET," HE SAID, ". . . TWO ROSES WHICH HAD BROKEN OFF WERE LYING ON THE FLOOR."

BURKLEY PUT THEM IN HIS POCKET.

"ON THE WAY TO THE PLANE, WE RODE IN SILENCE FOR A WHILE," HE SAID. "I THEN REACHED INTO THE POCKET AND TOOK OUT THE ROSES I HAD GOTTEN FROM THE FLOOR AND GAVE THEM TO MRS. KENNEDY, STATING WHAT THEY WERE.

"SHE TOOK THEM, PUT THEM IN HER JACKET POCKET, SMILED AND THANKED ME."

PB126AEE