

Johnson Leads U.S. In Prayers

Compiled from AP and UPI

WASHINGTON — President Johnson led a shocked nation today in praying for the recovery of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. Horrified lawmakers voiced fear "the world's gone mad."

Johnson, who succeeded to the office of President Nov. 22, 1963, when John F. Kennedy was slain before his eyes in Dallas, said "there are no words equal to the horror" of the tragic shooting of the late President's brother.

"All America prays for his recovery," Johnson said. "We also pray that divisiveness and violence be driven from the hearts of men everywhere."

Mrs. Martin Luther King Jr., who was consoled by the Kennedys when her own husband was assassinated by a sniper two months ago, wired Mrs. Kennedy: "I am praying for your husband, who I so much respect, and I am praying for our country in this pe-

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riod of great national tragedy and peril."

Republican and Democratic presidential candidates, shocked and sorrowed by the shooting, immediately canceled all campaigning.

Johnson, who spent much of the night watching television accounts of the assassination attempt and its aftermath, ordered the Secret Service to immediately assign a detail to guard the other presidential candidates.

A White House spokesman said Republicans Richard M. Nixon and Nelson A. Rockefeller, Democrats Eugene J. McCarthy and Hubert H. Humphrey and Independent George Wallace would receive Secret Service protection.

This was an emergency action which is not currently authorized by law. The President asked lawmakers to introduce the necessary legislation.

Senate Democratic leader Mike Mansfield said the legislation would be approved tomorrow by the Senate and sent to the House for equally

quick approval.

Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark, who ordered the FBI into the investigation of the shooting, said there was "no evidence of a conspiracy at this moment" in the assassination attempt. He said preliminary evidence indicated the shooting was "just an individual act."

"We the people must look deep into our hearts and ask what we are," Clark said. "We will weather this. But we must restore reason and order to our lives."

Undersecretary of State Nicholas Katzenbach, a close friend of Kennedy, said: "I feel as one would feel whose friend has been struck down under such tragic circumstances. My prayers are with him and his family."

Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy, who had gone to bed, was awakened and went to the Beverly Hilton hotel ballroom where he asked the stunned

crowd to join him in a moment of silent prayer.

McCarthy canceled plans to go to Seattle in furtherance of his campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination and said he would fly directly to Washington.

George Christian, White House press secretary said Johnson talked with Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, who had rushed to his brother's bedside in Los Angeles. The President also was in touch with Theodore Sorensen, one of Kennedy's advisers.

Johnson consulted during the night with Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark and FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover. The attorney general ordered the FBI into the case under authority of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the Civil Rights Act of 1968.

Clark also ordered James P. McShane, chief U.S. marshal, to take command of a guard detail posted at Kennedy's home, Hickory Hill, in suburban Fairfax County, Va.

Sen. Ralph W. Yarborough, D-Tex., who was riding with Johnson two cars behind the

presidential limousine when President Kennedy was slain, said today:

"The horror of it is that political assassination in this country is becoming as common as it is. America has to reorient and take stock of itself that this has become so common in our public life."

Sen. Henry M. Jackson, D-Wash., awakened in the predawn hours like many government officials to be told that a second Kennedy had been shot in an assassination attempt, said: "The world has gone mad."

"My God," gasped House Speaker John W. McCormack on being told of the shooting. "What is this country . . ." and his voice trailed off. "It's terrible, it's indescribable."

President Johnson, who had gone to bed for the night, was awakened by the White House situation room to be told of the shooting. He arose and

watched television accounts of the tragedy.

Senate Republican leader Everett M. Dirksen termed the shooting "a disaster of national proportions" and said it only emphasizes the lawlessness which grips the nation.

Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey, visiting the Air Force Academy in Colorado, said his "hopes and prayers" were with Kennedy.

"It is a shocking and terrible thing that has happened," Humphrey said. "Our hope and prayers are with Senator Kennedy and those others who have been the victims of this dreadful act of violence."

Sen. Mark Hatfield, R-Ore., said he was stunned by the act.

"It's a bad dream," Hatfield said. "I'm totally stunned. I can't believe it. It's just something beyond me."

House Republican leader Gerald Ford, a member of the Warren Commission that investigated the assassination of President Kennedy, said "It's shocking, unbelievable."



Sen. Robert F. Kennedy gunned down . . .