Transcript of Kennedy Primary Victory Speech

Special to The New York Times

LOS ANGELES, June 5—

Following is the transcript of the speech given by Senator Robert F. Kennedy shortly before he was shot:

Thank you very much, thank you very much. Thank you very much. I want to take—can you hear this—You can't hear? Can you hear that? That's great. Can we get something that works? Just one moment. Can you hear on any of these? Can you hear that?

I want to first express my high regard to Don Drysdale, who pitched his sixth straight shut-out tonight and I hope that we have as good fortune in our campaign.

Could I express my appreciation to a number of people first? To Jean Kerr for all he did, and I express my appreciation to him for his friendship and his help during this campaign and for his continued perseverance and his effort and for all of those who have been associated with him. I'll always be very grateful.

Students Are Thanked

And if I could also express my appreciation to Steve Smith, who was ruthless but has been effective and I just want to say how much—how grateful I am to him, to his wife, my sister Jean, to my sister Pat, and to my mother and all of those other Kennedys.

I want to express my gratitude to my dog Freckles who's been relying and I don't care what they say — as Franklin Roosevelt said, I don't care what they say about me but when they start to attack my dog—I'm very grateful for the folks that's required.

And I was also going to say to Tom—point out Tom Reese who is here and supported us. I want to thank a number of other people if I may. All of those of you who worked so hard in this campaign. All of the students who worked across this area and the members of my delegation, our delegation who also worked so diligently and with such unselfishness across the state on my behalf and on behalf of this cause that we're involved in.

I want to thank Caesar Chavez, who was here a little earlier. And Burk Krona who also worked with him and is all of those Mexican-American who were supporters of mine. An Dolores Balante, who is an old friend of mine and has worked with the union. Thank her and tell her how much I appreciate her coming tonight. We have certain obligations and responsibilities to fellow citizens which we talked about during the course of this campaign and I want to make it clear that if I'm elected President of the United States with your help I intend to keep it up.

I want to also thank all my friends in the black community who made such an effort in this campaign, with you. By a high magnitude voting today I think it really made a major difference for me. I want to express my appreciation to them.

Labor's Effort Noted

To my old friend, if I may, to those who are here. And to Rosie Greer who said that he'd take care of anybody who didn't vote for me. In a kind way because that's what we are. Smiley, pretty.

And I want to if I may, to just take a moment more of your time to express my appreciation to Paul Shraeke, who—from the U.A.W., who worked so hard and all the other members of the labor organizations and members of the labor movement. I am very grateful both to him for what he's done and the effort that he's made on behalf of the working man here in the state of California. I'm very, very appreciative.

I'm very grateful for the votes that I received in the poll that all of you worked for in behalf of the agricultural areas of the state as well as in the city. I think it indicates quite clearly as well as in the suburbs—I think it indicates quite clearly what we could do here in the United States.

The vote here in the state of California, the vote in the state of South Dakota, here is the most urban state of any of the states in our union. South Dakota, the most rural state of any of the states in our union, able to win them both. I think that we can end the division within the United States.

What I think is—what I think is quite clear is that we can work together in the last analysis and that what has been going on in the United States over the period of the last three years, the division, the violence, the disenchantment with our society, the division whether it's between black and white, between the poor and the more affluent or between age groups or over the war in Vietnam that we can start to work together. We are a great country and selfless country and a compassionate country. And I intend to make that my basis for running in the period of the next few months.

Ladies and gentlemen, if I can just take a moment more of your time because everybody must be dying from the heat. But what I think all of the primaries have indicated—if I can just take a minute or two minutes more of your time, what all of these primaries have indicated and all of the party caucuses have indicated, whether they occurred in Colorado or Idaho or Iowa—whether they occurred in California, it's a great effort and it's a great effort on behalf of mankind all of the students who worked so hard in this campaign and for his friendship and his help during this campaign and for his continued perseverance and his effort and for all of those who have been associated with him. I'll always be very grateful.

What we're going to do in the rural areas of this country, what we're going to do for those who still suffer in the United ribbon. What we're going to do around the rest of the globe and whether we're going to continue the policies which have been so unsuccessful in Vietnam, of American troops and American marines carrying out that conflict. I do want to and I think we move in a different direction.

Thank you. So I thank all of you who made all this possible. All of the effort that you made and all of the people who's names I haven't mentioned but who made all the work at the pre-cinct level, who got out to vote, who did all of the efforts that's required.

And I was a campaign manager eight years ago, I think a difference that kind of effort and that kind of commitment made. I thank all of you.

Mayor Yorty has just sent me a message that we've been here too long already. So I'm going to win so he retired.

I want to deal with our own problems within our own country and we want peace in Vietnam.

I congratulate Senator McCarthy and those who have been associated with him in their efforts that they have started in the United States and carried through to the primary here in the state of California. The fact is that all of us are involved in this great effort and it's a great effort, and it's a great effort on behalf of the Democratic party, it's a great effort on the part of the United States, on behalf of our own people, on behalf of mankind all around the globe and the next generation.

A Dialogue on Debate

And I would hope—I would hope now that the California primary is finished, now that the primary is over, that we can now concentrate on having a dialogue or a debate I hope between the Vice President and, perhaps, myself on what direction we want to go in the United States.

What we're going to do in the rural areas of this country, what we're going to do for those who still suffer in the United States. What we're going to do around the rest of the globe and whether we're going to continue the policies which have been so unsuccessful in Vietnam, of American troops and American marines carrying out that conflict. I do want to and I think we move in a different direction.

Thank you.
TRIUMPH, THEN TRAGEDY: Senator Kennedy and his wife, Ethel, at victory celebration at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles minutes before he was shot. To the right of the Senator is Jesse Unruh, California Assembly Speaker.