

State Funeral Saturday at N. Y. Cathedral

LOS ANGELES — (AP) — Robert Kennedy died early today, prey like his brother, the late President, to the savagery of an assassin, a gunman who lurked among the senator's friends and fired a bullet into his brain.

Kennedy's body was to be flown by Air Force jet this afternoon on a final journey across the stunned nation he had hoped to lead as President.

The funeral flight was bound for New York, where Kennedy's body is to lie in state tomorrow at St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Cathedral. A Requiem Mass will be held there Saturday.

Then a train will carry the body to Washington for burial Saturday at Arlington National Cemetery, probably on the grassy knoll resting place of the assassinated John F. Kennedy.

Robert Kennedy clung tenuously to life for more than 25 hours after a gunman emptied an eight-shot, .22 caliber revolver at him in a kitchen corridor of the Ambassador Hotel.

It happened moments after he had proclaimed his most important victory in the Democratic presidential nomination campaign, his winning over Sen. Eugene McCarthy in the California primary.

WIFE AT SIDE

He died at 1:44 a.m.

His widow, Ethel, pregnant with their 11th child, was at his bedside at the end, and with his body on the final journey.

Three of their older children were in a room next door. They visited their father before he died, but he never regained consciousness.

The man accused of the shooting, Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, 24, was under maximum security guard at Los Angeles County Jail.

The burst of violence which took Kennedy's life seemed to stem from hatred spawned on another continent, the warring of Arab and Israeli in the Middle East.

REVENGE

For the alleged assassin was a native of Jordan, and those who knew him said he was inflamed by conflict between his homeland and Israel.

A former employer suggested Kennedy's support of U.S. aid for Israel could have prompted the accused man to his deed.

Sirhan was held in \$250,000 bail, charged with six counts of assault with intent to commit murder. Five other persons were wounded in the

Kennedy shooting, none critically.

Assistant District Attorney William L. Ritzi said his office would seek a murder indictment against Sirhan at a county grand jury hearing tomorrow. Sirhan, without funds, will be represented by the Public Defender.

TERROR SCENE

The bullets that cut down Kennedy turned a scene of celebration into one of terror. The senator had just thanked his cheering supporters for the California victory.

Haggard and pale, Frank Mankiewicz, Kennedy's press secretary, announced the death.

"Sen. Robert Francis Kennedy died at 1:44 a.m. today, June 6, 1968," he said. "With Senator Kennedy at the time of his death were his wife Ethel, his sisters, Mrs. Stephen Smith and Mrs. Peter Lawford, and his sister-in-law, Mrs. John F. Kennedy. He was 42 years old."

A priest and old friend, the Rt. Rev. Msgr. William J.

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McCormack of New York, said prayers for the dying as the end came.

BROTHER PRESENT

Kennedy's brother, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Moss.) the family's last surviving son, was present, too.

Mankiewicz then answered questions.

The specific cause of death?

"The gunfire attack," he said.

Mankiewicz said the fatal bullet "went into the head near the right ear."

That shot penetrated Kennedy's brain, and surgeons early yesterday conducted a 3 hour, 40 minute operation to remove all but a fragment of it.

NEVER RALLIED

Another slug hit Kennedy in the shoulder and lodged in his neck.

Kennedy never rallied after the surgery.

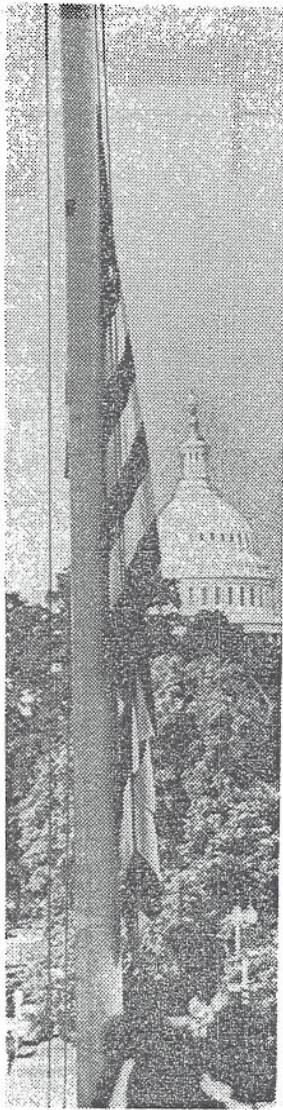
"It was not a question of his sinking," Mankiewicz said, "but a question of not rising. He needed a rally and steady improvement in his condition, and that did not develop."

"There had been a lack of improvement in his condition, and without the improvement there was lack of life force to sustain him," Mankiewicz said.

COINCIDENCE

President Johnson was awakened at 5:01 a.m., and told of Kennedy's death. He immediately proclaimed Sunday a day of national mourning for Kennedy. "This is a time of tragedy and loss," he said.

The White House dispatched from Washington the



Flag flies at half staff near Capitol in tribute to Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. —AP photo

airplane that flew Kennedy home. It was a four-engine jet of the type on which the President flies.

And there was in that an eerie reminder of another assassination and another flight eastward. Aboard that

flight was the body of President John Kennedy, assassinated in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

Mrs. John F. Kennedy, widow of the President, accompanied her husband's body that day, and was among the passengers on today's mournful journey.

Mrs. Martin Luther King, who lost her husband to an assassin April 4, also was on the Kennedy flight.

RULES FOLLOWED

A Los Angeles County coroner's team conducted an autopsy on Kennedy's body. That examination delayed the departure for New York, but Kennedy assistants made clear from the beginning that all legal requirements of the city and state would be satisfied before the body was removed.

In that, there seemed a recollection of Dallas and the stormy scene in which Secret Service agents and associates of John Kennedy rejected the attempt of a local medical examiner to hold the body of the assassinated President for an autopsy.

SCHEDULE

This was the tentative schedule for Kennedy's final rites:

Tomorrow:
8 a.m. to 10 p.m. The body lies in state at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York.

Saturday:
10 a.m. — Requiem Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral.
12:30 p.m. The body is placed in a train for the journey to Washington.

4:40 p.m. — The train arrives in Washington, the body to be taken in a funeral cortege past the Senate Office Building, where Kennedy worked, and the Department of Justice, where he served as attorney general.

5:30 p.m. — Burial at Arlington National Cemetery, probably at the plot overlooking Washington where John Kennedy is buried, and where an eternal flame burns in his memory.

HUMPHREY TRIBUTE

Vice President Hubert Humphrey, who had been a Kennedy rival for the Democratic presidential nomination, expressed "profound personal loss."

"We have all lost a great American," he said.

Sen. Eugene McCarthy, the presidential contestant Kennedy defeated in the Califor-

nia primary, spoke of the grieving family.

"Let us seek to comfort them by our quiet mourning," he said, "our rejection of violence and reprisal," and by new dedication to the Kennedy goals of peace and reconciliation.

Kennedy won 172 nominating votes in the California primary. But the bullets that cut him down cancelled the effect of the 1.4 million votes he received Tuesday.

SLATE RELEASED

A spokesman for the Democratic National Committee said California officials held that the Kennedy-pledged

in Cathedral

slate of delegates elected in the primary was automatically released by the death of their candidate, and may support whom they wish.

For the third time, word of the violent death of a son reached the home of Joseph P. Kennedy in Hyannis Port, Mass.

A niece, Miss Ann Gargan, told Mrs. Rose Kennedy at 6 a.m. that Robert was dead. Mrs. Kennedy went to Mass an hour later. Then she flew to New York to join the rest of the Kennedy family.

The eldest Kennedy son, Joseph P. Kennedy Jr., was killed in action during World

War II. Then came the assassination of President Kennedy, four years and nearly seven months ago.

That left Edward the family's sole surviving son.

MOURNING

Governor Reagan declared a state of mourning in California. New York Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller, who will appoint a Senate successor to Kennedy, ordered flags on state buildings to half staff.

A crowd of several thousand people — somber and silent — gathered off Wilshire Boulevard at the hospital where Kennedy died.

Many held red and black

placards that read: "Pray for Bobby."

There were crowds, too, in Tokyo, gathered to read news bulletins. And there were tears in the eyes of a man on a Moscow street.

BITTERNESS

There were expressions of regret in the Arab world, but there was bitterness, too.

"Senator Kennedy has been destined to pay the price for eagerness of American politicians to seek the votes of American Jews," wrote the Beirut newspaper Al Bayrak.

Kennedy aides listed 33

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KQED Auction Suspended on RFK Death

The annual KQED auction was suspended today because of the death of Sen. Robert Kennedy.

A spokesman for the educational television station said the fund-raising event may not be resumed "for the next day or so." It definitely will not be on the air Sunday, which has been proclaimed a national day of mourning.

When the auction is resumed, it will continue until all items have been sold. Those who already have made purchases may pick them up at the Palace of Fine Arts.