

WHAT THOUGHTS—AT A TIME LIKE THIS?

Senator Ted Kennedy holds a cross as he mourns at New York cathedral

Many in Tears Kiss Casket

Rites, Burial Tomorrow

NEW YORK — (UPI)—Thousands of mourners filled St. Patrick's Cathedral today in a last farewell to Sen. Robert Kennedy.

They wept and crossed themselves.

The rich whose background he shared and the poor whose cause he championed came in sadness to the Gothic cathedral on Fifth Avenue to pass by the closed casket.

His adopted city and the nation were saying goodbye to the slain senator they knew as Bobby.

KISS COFFIN

Many reached out hesitantly and gently touched the coffin. Some leaned and kissed it, brushing back tears. Scores wept openly. Soulful music filled the vast church.

Grieving multitudes came in work clothes and finery. Young college students bore knapsacks. Many filing past were Negroes whose cause Kennedy had championed.

They passed in two single files at the rate of 41 a minute.

A young man in a blue suit and white slacks, sporting a bushy mustache and shaggy hair, buried his contorted face in his palms and wept.

'LET US PRAY'

The Mass for the Dead in Kennedy's memory began at 6 a.m. at an altar some distance from the casket. As the mourners passed by the bier, the voice of a priest could be heard.

"Let us pray that God will bless Bobby Kennedy, that God will bless this nation . . .

"Let us pray that God will give the Kennedy family

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courage to endure this trying time . . ."

The huge bronze doors were ordered swung open at sunrise to permit hundreds of mourners who stood vigil throughout the night to enter for a 5:30 a.m. Requiem Mass.

It was one of eight Masses today for the senator, slain like his brother, President John F. Kennedy, by an assassin's bullet.

rites tomorrow

Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. tomorrow in the Cathedral. The body then will be borne by train to Washington for burial tomorrow afternoon in Arlington National Cemetery.

Kennedy will be laid to rest on a grassy hillside across the Potomac River from the Lincoln Memorial, next to his brother John.

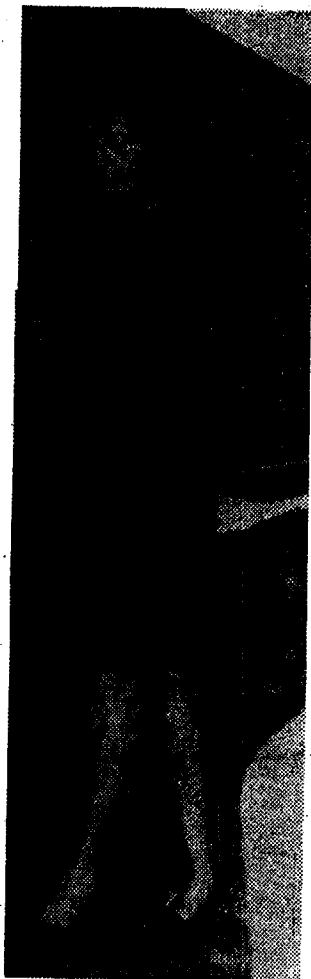
Sen. Edward Kennedy, whose three older brothers died violently serving their country, remained in the chancery of the cathedral throughout much of the long night, kneeling beside the casket bearing his brother.

It was grimly reminiscent of another seemingly endless night, nearly five years ago, when the body of President Kennedy was borne by presidential jet to Washington after that bleak day in Dallas, Nov. 22, 1963.

LAST AIR TRIP

Now Robert Kennedy had made his last, long airplane trip. The body was borne from Los Angeles to New York yesterday.

Kennedy was cut down by an assassin early Wednesday during the flush of victory in



Indomitable Mrs. Rose Kennedy entering cathedral last night.

the California Democratic primary, a triumph that propelled him into strong contention for the presidency his brother had relinquished in death by an assassin's hand.

Thousands of sorrowful New Yorkers stood silently and waited for hours for the coffin containing the body.

The presidential jet touched down at Marine Terminal, LaGuardia Airport. Thousands waited there — a

few were friends of the family, others were among a multitude to whom Kennedy was, simply, a hero.

MOTORCADE

The 10-mile trip to midtown Manhattan was made swiftly by motorcade. Along Astoria Boulevard in Queens, at the approach to the Triborough Bridge into Manhattan, thousands stood, watching the black cars speed by.

More of the curious and the sorrowful watched the cortege weave through Manhattan's cramped streets.

The body was borne to St. Patrick's for a private service for the family and close friends.

The coffin was taken from the hearse, in which Kennedy's widow Ethel had ridden from the airport, and carried into the church. Pall bearers included his brother Edward and two of the late senator's sons.

MOTHER PRESENT

Among the family who attended the brief ceremony

were the slain senator's mother, Rose Kennedy, 77; his sister-in-law, Mrs. John F. Kennedy; his surviving brother and Edward's wife, Joan.

Edward Kennedy walked out after the seven minute ceremony with the rest of the family, then went back inside to continue his vigil. He left more than three hours later for a brief rest, but returned before dawn.

The weekend promised in many ways to be reminiscent of the crisp late fall in Washington four and one-half years ago, with the ill-starred Kennedys once again sharing their hours of grief with the nation on television.

CONSTANT VIGIL

Kennedy aides said a constant vigil around the casket will be maintained until the funeral mass begins tomorrow morning. Teams of four, all friends of the family or members of Kennedy's senatorial and campaign staffs,

will stand 30 minute vigils, day and night.

The undraped, simple mahogany casket lay beneath the great dome of the cathedral, on a bier directly in front of the altar area in the center aisle.

A spray of white flowers was in front of the casket and there were three candles on either side. Nearly all the votive candles in the vast main room were lighted.

At the airport, Archbishop Terence J. Cooke, said a prayer for the dead and sprinkled the casket with holy water. He also presided over the family service later.

Cooke will be chief celebrant of the Requiem Mass, and will deliver Kennedy's eulogy.

Richard Cardinal Cushing, archbishop of Boston and close friend of the Kennedy family, will preside at the mass and "preach a sermon." He conducted the funeral in Washington for President Kennedy.