

## Wife Falls Asleep at Casket

NEW YORK — (UPI) — Mrs. Robert Kennedy, during the flight bringing her husband's body to New York, joked with other passengers and later fell asleep beside her husband's coffin, according to a television newsmen aboard the plane.

Sander Vanocur, an NBC television newsmen and friend of the Kennedy family, said on a network broadcast last night that during the flight Mrs. Kennedy spent about half an hour talking with her sister-in-law, Jacqueline Kennedy.

"And then, after that was over, Mrs. Robert Kennedy walked down the aisle, stopping with various people along the way, in the aft section of the cabin, just talking to them, sitting with them—I use the word 'joking' with them, because that's what she did," Vanocur said.

### 'GOOD SPIRITS'

"She was in remarkably good spirits. I suspect she's been under sedation for the last . . . I guess 24 or 25 hours."

"I suppose everybody was trying to keep her mind off what happened," Vanocur said.

Vanocur described Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) as angry over his brother's assassination.

"I think he was mostly — he's mad. I might as well say it, he's mad," Vanocur said. "He's mad at what happens

— Turn to Page 4, Col. 6

## Wife Nods Beside Casket

—From Page 1

in this country. He does not know whether it is the act of a single person, or whether this is the act of a conspiracy."

### FAMILY UPSET

Vanocur's description of the flight was the only one to come from a newsmen aboard the plane.

The late Sen. Robert Kennedy's press secretary, Frank Mankiewicz, later indicated the Kennedys were disturbed by Vanocur's reporting of events during the flight.

"Everyone on the plane was there on the basis of friendship," Mankiewicz said.

"There were only friends, colleagues and staff members. Nobody was there as a reporter.

"The plane was private and that is how we view it. We are not going to comment on anything said on the airplane."

Vanocur said Sen. Edward Kennedy remained beside his dead brother's coffin in the plane's forward cabin throughout the four-hour flight "and other people took



Robert F. Kennedy Jr. stands at father's bier.

their turns in just lying next to the coffin . . ."

He said about an hour before the plane arrived in New York Edward Kennedy fell asleep "and Mrs. Robert Kennedy came up and lay against the coffin."

When a Kennedy friend, mountaineer Jim Whitaker, put a pillow under her head, "she woke up for a moment, looked at him, then fell asleep against the coffin," Vanocur said.

## Meet Schedule Change-RFK

Tomorrow's session of the National Conference of the Associated Councils of the Arts at the Hilton Hotel has been cancelled in memory of

the late Senator Robert F. Kennedy.

Most of the day's programs have been incorporated in today's schedule, said program director Joseph Farrell.