

# The Gentle,

By Richard Harwood  
Times-Post Service

## Los Angeles

A few days after Robert Kennedy became a presidential candidate, the people traveling with him noticed that late at night, slouched in an airplane seat, his hands would sometimes tremble.

It took a while to figure out that it was not fatigue but the emotions that churned around inside him in those early days. He had then a very simple and a very plebian problem. It was stage fright. He wasn't sure of himself as a performer.

His voice was often too shrill. His words were often ill-chosen. He talked too long and got argumentative in question-and-answer sessions with his audiences.

### Emotional

The reason, one of his oldest social friends said, was that Robert Kennedy "lives too close to the surface. He is a very emotional man, the most compassionate of all the Kennedys. He's got more heart than mind."

In the ten weeks that followed and took him through the primaries in Indiana, Nebraska, Oregon and Califor-

nia the tremor in the hands disappeared, the shrillness left his voice and he became the happiest of warriors.

He kidded himself constantly for being "ruthless" when the common judgment was that he was far too soft-hearted for his own good.

That may have been an oversimplification. One of his staff members said before Indiana that there really was a "good Bobby and a bad Bobby," and that the "bad Bobby" was like the petulant baseball player who strikes out in the clutch and then kicks the batboy.

### Complaint

Just a few days ago he complained angrily that there were "too many guitar players" hanging around on his staff doing nothing.

But that side of him rarely surfaced. What came out most in the bull sessions with reporters late at night, in his public appearances, and in his private behavior was his gentleness.

His capacity for affection was striking. Children appealed to him most. He admired athletes and heroes and seemed most comforta-



ROBERT AT JOHN'S GRAVE  
'The most compassionate of all Kennedys'

# Happy Warrior

ble with people like John Glenn, the astronaut, and Roosevelt Grier, the professional football player.

There was a special affection for his cocker spaniel, Freckles, who traveled everywhere with him and often slept by his side.

What moved him most, though, was life in the ghetto, in eastern Kentucky, in the delta of Mississippi and on the Indian reservations.

## The Poor

The poor outsiders of this world became an obsession with him. He saw himself as their only authentic champion. And from the hysterical way they greeted him and from the enormous vote majorities they gave him, it was fairly obvious that the blacks and the Indians and the Mexican-Americans saw him that way, too.

Talking about them in an Indiana speech one day, he got so choked up he had to sit down. Many people in the audience were crying because of his passion and eloquence.

He wasted none of it on himself. There were no tears and no self-pity after his defeat in Oregon by Eugene

McCarthy. Instead, he joked about Freckles costing him the election. In every discussion of his political future he was fatalistic and not at all cock-sure.

His estimation of himself was that "maybe we can do something." That was about all he ever said on that subject.

One thing that impressed itself on his crowds, wherever he went, was his size. People were always saying how "tiny" he was, but that was a relative thing. Although only 5 feet 9 and weighing only about 150 or 160 pounds, he had powerful shoulders and forearms and was a very physical man — mountain climbing, football, swimming.

## Stamina

His stamina in this campaign was enormous; 18 to 21-hour days were common. But he kept himself in good shape — no heavy drinking, only an occasional cigar and a capacity for instant sleep.

If he had any premonitions of disaster, he never showed it. In Salt Lake City, early in the campaign, the police warned him of a bomb threat in an auditorium in which he

was to speak. He showed up and joked about the anxiety. He joked about an abortive takeoff in a chartered airplane one day and in a little town in West Virginia a few weeks ago, showed not a flicker of emotion when a rifle shot rang out from the nearby hills.

His wife was less sanguine. In San Francisco's Chinatown on Monday, the Kennedys were riding in an open car when a string of firecrackers was set off. The Senator called to a reporter running behind his car and asked him to get aboard. What he wanted was someone to hold Ethel's hand. She had been frightened.

An hour or so later he was racing down a freeway to the airport, his old friend, John Seigenthaler, editor of the Nashville Tennessean, was in the car. They began singing a song in Japanese at the top of their voices. Ethel joined in.

They sang and sang and no one would ever have known that he was 24 hours away from a primary election that could make or break him or that he was only 30 hours away from a rendezvous with a man, with a gun, and death.

## Expressions Of Sympathy From Britain

London

Queen Elizabeth II sent a personal message of sympathy to Mrs. Robert F. Kennedy yesterday.

This evening a Requiem Mass was sung at Westminster Cathedral for the repose of Senator Kennedy's soul. John Cardinal Heenan, the Roman Catholic primate, also sent a message of condolence to Mrs. Kennedy.

Prime Minister Harold Wilson, in a message to President Johnson said:

"The people and the government of Britain share with the people and government of the United States their feelings of horror and sorrow. Our people's heartfelt sympathy will go out to Senator Kennedy's widow and children and to his parents at this sad time."

Dr. Michael Ramsey, archbishop of Canterbury and head of the Anglican Church, said in a statement: "I am grieved beyond words at this further tragedy for the Kennedy family and for the whole American people."

At the United States Embassy a book of condolence had been signed by nearly 5000 persons by closing time.

*New York Times*

## U.N. Pays Respects to Kennedy

United Nations

Major United Nations organs paid honor to Senator Robert F. Kennedy yesterday. The U.N. flag flew at half-staff.

Diplomats flocked to the United States Mission to sign the condolence book. Among them were Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Vasily Kuznetsov and Ambassador Jacob Malik, who also sent a joint personal sympathy note to Ambassador Arthur J. Goldberg.

Jordanian ambassador Muhaammad el-Farra was one of those who signed. The man accused as Kennedy's assassin, Sirhan Sirhan, has been identified as a Jordanian national.

The General Assembly canceled a meeting scheduled for yesterday afternoon on southwest Africa.

The Security Council postponed a meeting requested by Jordan and Israel on the recent fighting after adjourning Wednesday night out of respect to Kennedy.

El-Farra issued a statement condemning the "criminal act committed against an outstanding American" and expressing the dismay of the Jordanian people.

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## Papal Messages Of Condolence

Vatican City

Pope Paul VI, deeply saddened by the death of Senator Robert F. Kennedy, yesterday asked God's blessing and protection for the people and government of the United States.

The Pope sent a cable to President Johnson that said: "Deeply saddened by the untimely and violent departure of Senator Kennedy, we offer you our sincere condolences on the loss of an outstanding public servant. Asking God to console, guard and bless

you, your family, the government and the people of the United States.

In a message to Kennedy's widow, the pontiff said: "Assuring you of our profound sympathy with your tragic bereavement, we offer heartfelt prayers for the repose of the soul of your beloved husband and impart to you and your children and all members of the family as a pledge of divine strength and consolation our paternal apostolic blessing."

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