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AS GRAVE WAS CONSECRATED: With President Johnson, members of John F. Kennedy's family view ceremonies at new Kennedy gravesite at Arlington National

Cemetery. From left: Mrs. Edward M. Kennedy, Senator Robert F. Kennedy, a Secret Serviceman behind Mr. Johnson, Mrs. John F. Kennedy, Senator Edward M. Kennedy.

Permanent Kennedy Grave Dedicated

By **ROBERT B. SEMPLE Jr.**

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WASHINGTON, March 15 —Members of the Kennedy family and President Johnson stood together shortly after dawn today for a brief private ceremony to consecrate the new and permanent grave of John Fitzgerald Kennedy.

The service, unannounced and carried out in secrecy, took place at 7 A.M. in a cold, driving rain on the same graceful Virginia hillside in

Arlington National Cemetery where Mr. Kennedy was buried Nov. 25, 1963.

Ten hours before today's service, workmen had moved the coffins of the 35th President and of two infant Kennedy children 20 feet downhill from their temporary sites to a permanent monument of granite and marble. The transfer was witnessed by the late President's brothers, Senator Robert F. Kennedy and Senator Edward M. Kennedy, and

by Richard Cardinal Cushing of Boston.

Early this morning, an hour before the cemetery opened to the public, Mr. Johnson and 10 members of the Kennedy family—including the two Senators and President Kennedy's widow—huddled under umbrellas around the new site as Cardinal Cushing said a short prayer and blessed the grave.

President Johnson had been

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invited to the service by Mrs. Kennedy and Senator Robert Kennedy. During the service, Mr. Johnson and the Senator stood side by side, sharing an umbrella held by a Secret Service man who stood behind them.

The two men spoke little, according to associates, but their greeting and subsequent exchanges were not, in the words of one Kennedy aide, marked by "tension." There have been frequent reports of friction between the two.

There have been frequent reports of friction between the two. The most recent report, which appeared in the March 17 issue of Time magazine, said that a confrontation between them on Feb. 6 following the Senator's return from a European trip was marked by bitter and profane exchanges.

Senator Kennedy's aides have acknowledged that the session was far from amiable, but both sides have described as inaccurate, the Time portrayal of the meeting as bitter and ill-tempered, and have denied as well some of the specific quotations attributed to the two principals by the magazine.

Stoughton Takes Photos

The only photographs of this morning's service were taken by Maj. Cecil Stoughton, who once served as President Kennedy's official photographer and is now assigned to the Pentagon.

Major Stoughton's photographs of Mr. Johnson's swearing-in aboard Air Force One in Dallas, after the assassination became the center of a lively controversy last month when William Manchester, the author of "The Death of a President," asserted that every male Kennedy aide with one exception had insulted Mr. Johnson by not attending the swearing-in ceremony. A later examination of the photographs showed that several Kennedy aides were present at one time or another during the swearing-in.

Others at Ceremony

Besides the President, Mrs. Kennedy and the two Senators, others present at the graveside ceremony were Mrs. Robert F. Kennedy, Mrs. Edward M. Kennedy, Mr. and Mrs. Sargent Shriver, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen M. Smith and Mrs. Patricia Ken-

nedy Lawford, and Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara. Mrs. Shriver, Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Lawford are sisters of the late President.

As far as could be determined, the meeting between the President and Mrs. Kennedy was the first since Oct. 14, 1964, when Mr. Johnson paid an unscheduled call at Mrs. Kennedy's apartment at 1040 Fifth Avenue in New York.

Today, Mrs. Kennedy had flown back to New York and Mr. Johnson had left by plane for a speaking engagement in Tennessee before news of the ceremony began to emerge. The Pentagon said that neither the transfer of the coffins nor the ceremony had been announced to the press or general public because it was a private matter and any publicity would have been inappropriate.

Announced Later

A Defense Department announcement, issued after the ceremony, said the transfer of the coffins began at 6:19 P.M. last evening and was completed at 9:03. With the slope illuminated by floodlights, workmen used a crane to lift the coffins one by one to the new site.

The Kennedy brothers paid two visits to the site last night. They spent roughly an hour with Cardinal Cushing watching the reinterment and then returned for a brief, private visit at about 11 P.M.

Cardinal Cushing, the Archbishop of Boston, is an old family friend. He officiated at President Kennedy's funeral here in 1963.

His prayer this morning was brief and moving. He said in part: "Be at peace, dear Jack, with your tiny infants by your side, until we all meet again above this hill and beyond the stars. May the good Lord grant you eternal rest and let perpetual light shine upon you and yours."

The ceremony lasted no more than 20 minutes. A section of the United States Army Band played the "Navy Hymn," "The Star-Spangled Banner" and "The Boys of Wexford," an Irish tune. Before leaving, Mrs. Kennedy left a bouquet of lilies-of-the-valley on the black marble slab that says "John Fitzgerald Kennedy, 1917-1963."

Mrs. Kennedy's visit to the

grave was believed to be her first since May 29, 1964, the 47th anniversary of her husband's birth. She sold her Washington town house and moved to New York the following fall.

The old burial site, surrounded by a low, white picket fence, has been visited by more than 16 million persons. The eternal flame and the military caps that have surrounded it were transferred last night to the new site. In most other respects, the new site is completely different from the old.

The permanent memorial, designed by John Carl Warnecke on commission from Mrs. Kennedy, is reached by sweeping stone walks. It consists of slabs of rough-hewn reddish granite, beneath which lies the President's body. The slabs were taken from an old quarry on Cape Cod, Mass., where Mr. Kennedy once spent his summers.

A black marble slab, set horizontally a few inches above the granite, marks one end. At the other flickers the eternal flame, which leaps from a cream-colored round stone, similar to a mill wheel, about five feet in diameter.

On each side of Mr. Kennedy's grave lie two smaller black marble slabs, marking the grave of his two children. One is for Patrick Bouvier Kennedy, who lived two days after he was born in August, 1963. The other simply says "Daughter," for a girl stillborn Aug. 23, 1956.

Immediately below the granite slabs is a large concrete terrace surrounded in part by a low semicircular wall. Seven quotations from Mr. Kennedy's Inaugural Address are inscribed on the wall.

The Pentagon said that although some landscaping still remained to be done on the \$1.4-million monument, "President Kennedy's permanent grave is now basically completed."

The new site is on an exact line with the Memorial Bridge and dominates the hillside whose summit is occupied by the Custis-Lee Mansion.

The basic information describing the ceremony and last night's reburial was contained in the Pentagon announcement. Other details were reported by aides of Robert and Edward Kennedy.