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KENNEDY STAMP NL 275

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BOSTON AP - The 50th anniversary of the birth of the late President John F. Kennedy was marked Monday in his home city with the issuance of a new 13 cent stamp, made in that denomination especially for use on overseas mail.

Postmaster General Lawrence F. O'Brien, who was one of Kennedy's campaign workers and his White House legislative aid, dedicated the stamp to the late president as "John F. Kennedy the politician."

O'Brien said he hoped that Kennedy's real personality would not be lost in the efforts of "well meaning Americans who seek to make him larger than life."

O'Brien said that we are in "a cynical age, marked by lack of values and a dull sense of drift, anchorless on a dark and angry sea."

So he said "it is important and useful to honor a hero."

"But. . .not only is it a wasteful and ridiculous excess to add another hue to the rainbow, perfume the violet, and paint the lily, but in the case of John Fitzgerald Kennedy the real man the real human being, and yes, the real politician, are all submerged somewhere beneath the slowly accumulating weight of all those millions of featherlike words."

The stamp dedication took place at a luncheon at which Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., represented the Kennedy family.

Along with O'Brien, others of the late president's White House team, David Powers, Kenneth P. O'Brien, and Richard Donahue - part of what came to be called Kennedy's "Irish Mafia" - attended.

In addition to the stamp issue, the president's birth anniversary was marked over the weekend by federal acquisition of Kennedy's Brookline birthplace as a national historic site.

At Newport News, Va., on Saturday, the president's daughter, Caroline, christened the Navy's newest aircraft carrier, named for her father.

In connection with the dedication luncheon, the Boston Post Office set up a special branch in the lobby of the Statler-Hilton where the first day Kennedy stamps went on sale.

Each of the 1,000 attending the lunch received a program which contained an inserted sheet with one of the new stamps and a cancellation of "Brookline, Mass., May 29, 1967."

TC755ped May 29 (967)