

Sad Tribute Paid to Kennedy

WASHINGTON (UPI) — John Fitzgerald Kennedy lay in state in the Rotunda of the flood-lit United States Capitol Sunday night and the people paid him mournful homage.

They filed past the flag-draped casket by the thousands. At one time, as darkness fell, the patient throng waiting to pay its respects extended at least two miles.

Some had been standing in line—six and eight abreast—for six hours when finally they reached the bier.

Most if not all had been among the officially estimated 300,000 that lined the procession route as, to the muted cadence of muffled drums, the body of President Kennedy was borne from the White House to the Capitol.

Kisses Covering Flag

Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy, veiled in black, personally relinquished her husband to the people at the conclusion of ceremonies within the great Rotunda.

With tears near but never shed, and with Caroline, 6 Wednesday, at her side, she walked to the bier, knelt with her child, and kissed the covering flag.

John F. Kennedy Jr., who is 3 today, the day of his father's

funeral, was not as self-disciplined as his mother and sister. He stood quietly for a while but after a time tired and tried to make friends with some nearby. A Naval aide led him away.

Walks Behind Casket

Today is the widow's last day in public.

Escorted by the late President's brother, Atty. Gen. Robert F. Kennedy, and followed by the dignitaries of more than 50 nations, she will walk behind the casket a half-mile from the White House to St. Matthew's Cathedral for 11 a.m. CST funeral Mass.

Then it is across the river to Arlington National cemetery for burial on a green hillside.

About 300 yards to the east lies the only other President to be buried in the Arlington cemetery, William Howard Taft.

Keep Rotunda Open

So vast was the throng paying its respects to President Ken-

nedy that it was fortunate the decision was made Saturday to keep the Rotunda open as long as anyone wished to go there. The original plans to close at 8 p.m. CST were discarded.

While the official estimate of the mass along the cortege route was 300,000, some veteran members of the Washington police force said it was almost impossible to calculate the total number of people in the city for the ceremonies.

One captain said it seemed to be an incredible several million, considering those along the procession route and those who waited through the night.

Dignitaries' Tributes

All ages, colors, and conditions were represented, even the sightless. Six sailors filed by the bier, halted and faced the casket, saluted, and walked away.

Shortly after 6 p.m. CST, Princess Radziwill, Mrs. Kennedy's sister, entered the Rotunda and knelt briefly at the rail encircling the casket and honor guard of servicemen.

Mrs. Kennedy's farewell kiss on the flag climaxed the emotion-wracked ritual that began with the procession up Pennsylvania ave. and ended with tributes from three dignitaries who served with the 46-year-old President during his 34 months in office.

Procession Begins

After the 34-year-old widow and her two children walked out of the Rotunda, the procession of the people past the bier began. They filed slowly through the afternoon as a waning sun slanted its beams into the Rotunda and on into the night.

While they had lined the route

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BEREAVED FAMILY — Mrs. John F. Kennedy stands at a White House entrance with her children, John Jr. and Caroline, Sunday before joining the procession in which her hus-

band's body was borne from the Executive Mansion to the Capitol.

—AP Wirephoto

Mournful Homage Paid to JFK as Thousands File Past Casket

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of the cortege, word came over transistor radios clutched by many that the accused assassin of the President, Lee Harvey Oswald, had in turn been shot and was dying in the same Dallas hospital as the President.

The effect on the throng was almost disquieting. They listened to the almost hysterical tones of a broadcaster as though he was telling an alien tale that had no connection with their presence at this occasion.

Follows Same Route

Inside the Capitol, the President's body lay a stone's throw from the spot on Capitol plaza where on Jan. 20, 1961, he roused a nation with his stirring inaugural address.

The cortege route followed the same 1.8 miles of history he rode that day in triumph.

People began arriving at dawn to take up vigil before the White House. By mid-morning lines stretched all along the tree-lined route to the Capitol.

By noon (CST) when the cortege left the executive mansion, the crowds had solidly packed the streets.

Crowd Stands Silent

The crowd was hushed as it stood waiting for the procession. The only sound came from children playing here and there. Then slowly heads turned up the street as, on an autumnal breeze, came the sound of muffled drums.

First in view were uniformed members of the Washington police department marching in melancholy cadence. Behind them came the drummers—four snare

drummers from each branch of the armed services, two bass drummers and a drum major.

Behind a company of enlisted men from the Navy, the slain President's service, and after a special honor guard, came the horse-drawn caisson.

Rosevelt Caisson

It was riding on the same caisson that carried the body of President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

The wind rippled the flag across the casket. Trailing the caisson was a black riderless horse, its stirrups inverted.

The Caisson was drawn by six gray horses. The three on the left were ridden, the three on the right were riderless.

The tradition of the riderless horse stretches back centuries to a time when a fallen leader's horse was sacrificed as part of his burial service.

Widow, President

Following the caisson was a limousine with the widow and her children, Robert F. Kennedy, and President and Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson.

Other members of the family and dignitaries followed in similar black limousines.

Inside the Capitol where, after the casket had been borne into the Rotunda by six servicemen, three officials closely associated with the President delivered brief, moving eulogies.

Warren's Remarks

"What moved some misguided wretch to do this horrible deed may never be known to us," said Chief Justice Earl Warren who was unaware then that Oswald had been slain.

Warren said President Kennedy deplored the "false accusations that divide us." And now, he added, "the whole world is poorer because of his loss."

Is it too much to hope, Warren

asked, that the martyrdom of John F. Kennedy would soften the hearts of those who "step back" from assassination themselves but "kindle it in the hearts of others?"

'Gave of Himself'

Senate Democratic leader Mike Mansfield (Mont.), who served with the slain President in the Senate, said: "A piece of each of us died."

"Yet, in death," Mansfield said, "he gave of himself . . . he gave that we might give of ourselves, that we might give to one another until there would be no room, no room at all, for the bigotry, the hatred, prejudice and the arrogance which converged in that moment of horror to strike him down."

Said House Speaker John W. McCormack (D-Mass.) a veteran congressman when Mr. Kennedy first came to the house in 1947: "As the bitter pangs of our incredulous grief begin to pass, we must thank God that we were privileged, however briefly, to have had this great man for our President."

Lincoln Catafalque

During the eulogies, the President's coffin lay on the same catafalque that held Abraham

Lincoln after his assassination nearly a century ago.

Mrs. Kennedy appeared to have maintained her composure throughout the tributes and ceremony. Staring straight ahead most of the time, she watched erectly and intently. The only time she was diverted when she turned to the children to reassure them or offer soft words of explanation.

At the White House when the casket was being placed on the caisson, she turned to Caroline and apparently explained the significance of the riderless black horse.

Admires Sleek Horse

Caroline maintained her childish dignity throughout. But John Jr. showed boyish admiration for the sleek horse, its glistening saddle atop a black blanket bordered in white.

When the family and the dignitaries departed, the people who had elected John Kennedy as their youngest President took their turn in paying homage.

First in line was Morris Uman-



SLAIN POLICEMAN'S FAMILY — Mrs. J. D. Tippett, widow of the Dallas policeman killed Friday during the search for President Kennedy's assassin, poses with her three fatherless children, Brenda Kay, 10; Curtis

Ray, 4; and Allen, 13. Lee H. Oswald, who was killed Sunday by Jack Ruby, was charged with Tippett's murder and Mr. Kennedy's assassination.

—AP Wirephoto

sky, 16, of Newark, N.J., who had waited 13½ hours to pay his respects. He filed into the hushed, vaulted chamber, passed the casket, then burst into sobs as he left.

Filled with Flowers

Most of the mourners who filed past the casket were impassive but others broke. One Negro girl on crutches was crying as she walked through the Rotunda.

An antechamber just outside the crepe-hung Rotunda was filled with floral wreaths and displays sent by heads of state and governments and others.

As the day wore on, the crowd wound around the outside of the Capitol, patiently waiting their turn to say adieu to John Fitzgerald Kennedy.



JOHNSONS AT CHURCH — President and Mrs. Johnson, accompanied by their daughter, Lucy Baines, arrive Sunday at St. Marks Episcopal Church to attend services. In the background is Rep. Homer Thornberry (D -Tex.).

—AP Wirephoto