

Mrs. Kennedy Kneels, Kisses His Casket

By FRANCES LEWINE

Washington, D. C. — AP —

Mrs. John F. Kennedy, her little daughter beside her, knelt and kissed her husband's casket Sunday and left it behind in the capitol rotunda for the public to view.

Millions on nation-wide television and hundreds crowding the rotunda watched the former first lady bid this farewell to the slain president.

There were deep circles under the eyes of the president's widow. Her face looked anguished, but she retained grim composure.

Wearing a black suit and black lace mantilla, she took her two children, Caroline and John, jr., hand in hand to ride with her in the slow procession to the capitol.

There, she listened to a heart tearing eulogy by Senate Majority Leader Mansfield. The Montana senator based his brief speech on the dramatic gesture Mrs. Kennedy made last Friday when she kissed her husband's lifeless lips and put her wedding

TV SPOTLIGHT ON SENTINEL

Saturday morning's edition of The Milwaukee Sentinel, with its headline, "Kennedy Slain by an Assassin," was displayed prominently on NBC during Saturday's coverage of President Kennedy's assassination and its effects throughout the nation.

The paper was displayed as it was being read on a street in Mukwonago, Wis., by Mukwonago Police Chief Henry Ruff. NBC showed scenes from Mukwonago, the village President Kennedy had once promised he would visit—a promise that would not be fulfilled.

ring in his hands after the assassination.

"There was a husband who asked much and gave much," said Mansfield, "and out of the giving and the asking, wove with a woman what could not be broken in life and in a moment, it was no more. . . ."

Mrs. Kennedy bowed her head for a time as Mansfield reminded her of the scene in a Dallas hospital. Midway through the speech, she slightly raised the veil from her face as if to flick a tear from her cheek.

Millions Watch Funeral Cortege

Millions of Americans Sunday watched the solemn ceremony accompanying the removal of President Kennedy's body from the White House to the rotunda at the capitol where it will lie in state for one day.

The funeral cortege, silent except for the mournful beat of muffled drums, was carried in full by the three networks. The millions who watched and listened were reminded that the route followed by the funeral procession was the same as the parade on Mr. Kennedy's inauguration in January, 1961.

The flag draped casket in which Mr. Kennedy lay, was borne on a caisson drawn by six gray horses and led by a seventh.

An eighth — a riderless black horse, symbolic of the fallen chief — was led behind the caisson.

The procession was impressive, even when viewed from the comfort of one's home. The sounds and sights, coupled with the essential simplicity of the event, created a somber, sorrowful mood.

The cortege, besides the caisson and honor guard, consisted of a contingent of Washington metropolitan police, a naval unit, a trio of clergy represent-

ing the various faiths, a drum corps and a line of black limousines carrying Mr. Kennedy's family and President and Mrs. Johnson.

The television cameras followed the procession up Pennsylvania av., to Constitution av., then to Delaware av. and the capitol building.

100 Steps a Minute

At the measured rate of 100 steps a minute, the cortege moved down the spectator lined streets. There was no need for commentary or explanation by the television reporters and none was given.

The muffled drum beat, the measured steps, the silent crowd, the creaking caisson wheels and the echoing "clap, clap" of horses' hoofs told the story eloquently.

Even a child could understand the message. It was:

"This is the body of slain President Kennedy. We are taking it to the capitol so that the public can pay its respects."

At the capitol, the casket was removed from the caisson and carried to the rotunda and placed on a catafalque. While this was being done, the navy band played "Hail to the Chief," and the "Navy Hymn," while a 21 gun salute thundered in the background.