

'He Was His Own Profile

Washington, D. C. — AP — Here is the text of remarks made by Republican Leader Everett M. Dirksen of Illinois at a meeting of members of the senate Monday:

"The memory of John Fitzgerald Kennedy lingers in this forum of the people. Here we knew his vigorous tread, his flashing smile, his ready wit, his keen mind, his zest for adventure. Here with quiet grief we mourn his departure. Here we shall remember him best as a colleague whose star of public service is indelibly inscribed on the roll of the United States senate.

"And here the eternal question confronts and confounds us. Why must it be? Why must the life of an amiable, friendly, aggressive young man, moved only by high motives, lighted on his way by high hopes, guided by broad plans, impelled by understanding and vision, be brought to an untimely end and with his labor unfinished. And why, in a free land, untouched by the heel of dictatorship and oppression, where the humblest citizen may freely utter his grievances, must that life be cut short by an evil instrument, moved by malice, frustration and hate? This is the incredible

thing which leaves us bewildered and perplexed.

"One moment there is the ecstasy of living when one can hear the treble cries of scampering children over the White House lawn, the pleasure of receiving a Thanksgiving turkey which I presented to him but three days before the evil deed, the pleasure of conversation over many things including his hopes for the future, the exciting fact of sunshine and green grass in late November, the endless stream of citizens coming to the president's house, the strident voice of the city rising from the hum of traffic, the animation of saluting

crowds, and then the sudden strangling death rattle of dissolution. Who shall say, save that there is a divinity which shapes our ends and marks our days?

"As the tumult and grief subside, as the nation resumes and moves forward, and his own generation measures his works and achievements, what shall we say who knew him well — we in this forum where he spent eight years of his life — we who knew him best not as Mr. President but simply as Jack.

"We saw him come to this body at age 42. We saw him grow. We saw him rise. We saw him elevated to become

in Courage'—Dirksen

the chief magistrate of this nation. And we saw him as the leaders of both branches of this republic assembled to deliberate over common problems.

"In this moment when death has triumphed, when hearts are chastened, when the spirit reels in sheer bewilderment, what do we say, now that the book of life has been closed?

"Let me say what we have always said when he was alive, gay, happy, friendly, ambitious and ready to listen.

"He had vision that went beyond our own. His determination to effectuate a test ban treaty is a living example.

"He was his own profile in courage. His unrelenting devotion to equality and civil rights attests that fact.

"He was devoted to our system of constitutional government. His attitude toward the separation of church and state looms like a shining example.

"He had the great virtue of spiritual grace. If at any moment he may have seemed frustrated over a proposition, it was so transitory. If he showed any sign of petulance, it was so fleeting. There were no souring acids in his spirit.

"If at any moment, he may have seemed overeager, it

was but the reflection of a zealous crusader and missionary who knew where he was going.

"If at any moment, he seemed to depart from the covenant which he and his party made with the people, it was only because he believed that accelerated events and circumstances did not always heed the clock and the calendar.

"If his course sometimes seemed at variance with his own party leaders or with the opposition, it was only because a deep conviction dictated his course.

"On the tablets of memory, we who knew him well as a friend and colleague can well

that lurked in a continuing inequality in our land and sought a rational and durable solution—one to whom the phrase “the national interest” was more than a string of words—one who could disagree without vindictiveness—one who believed that the expansion of the enjoyment of living by all people was an achievable goal—one who believed that each generation must contribute its best to the fulfillment of the American dream.

“The te deums which will be sung this day may be wafted away by the evening breeze which caresses the last resting place of those who served the republic, but here in this chamber where he served and prepared for higher responsibility, the memory of John Fitzgerald Kennedy will long linger to nourish the faith of all who serve that same great land.”

inscribe this sentiment.

“Senator John Fitzgerald Kennedy, who became the 35th president of the United States—young, vigorous, aggressive and scholarly—one who estimated the needs of his country and the world and sought to fulfill that need—one who was wedded to peace and vigorously sought this greatest of all goals of mankind — one who sensed how catastrophic nuclear conflict could be and sought a realistic course to avert it—one who sensed the danger