

Connally Relates Jacqueline's

Dallas, Tex. — UPI — As the bullets struck President Kennedy, his wife cried, "Oh my God! They've killed my husband!" wounded Gov. John B. Connally said Wednesday.

The governor said: "The president slumped. He said nothing."

For the first time he was telling of the last split seconds of the president's life while three shots rained down from a sniper's rifle in the sixth floor of a building 100 yards away.

"We had just turned the corner (onto Elm st.).

"We heard a shot. I turned to my left. And the president had slumped. He said nothing."

Connally spoke from his hospital bed

during a closed circuit television news conference at Parkland Memorial hospital.

"I think the man did what he intended to—shoot both of us," the governor said, wiping his eyes as he spoke.

Connally said he himself exclaimed, "My God! They're going to kill us all!"

Connally said that after he was shot, the president was shot again.

This means the president was hit first, Connally was hit by the second bullet and the president was hit with the third and last shot fired by the sniper, hidden in the Texas Schoolbook Depository building 100 yards away.

"It could have happened anywhere," the 46 year old governor said.

Anguished Cry

The shooting was "an open manifestation of extremism on both sides that is the genesis of our self-destruction if we are ever going to be destroyed."

He pleaded for reason and tolerance.

"I feel President Kennedy has been asked to do something in death that has not been done in life:

"To so shock and stun the nation and the world that it will realize what is happening — that cancerous growth affecting all of us . . . breeds hatred and intolerance."

Asked when he knew the president was dead, he replied: "Saturday, after I was conscious enough to understand.

"Nellie told me. It was no news. I was

almost sure he was killed after the two shots I knew he had taken.

"I felt I had been killed, too, after I was shot."

Saved by four hours of surgery, Connally had been shot through the back. The bullet fragmented. It broke three ribs, cut a lung, shattered his right wrist and made a slight wound above the left knee.

"My God! What a horrible, horrible tragedy!" he said.

"We were so happy, so happy. We had had tremendous ovations. And in a second, this thing happened that changed all our lives.

"This is how a moment of joy can turn

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CONNALLY

Undying Faith in Johnson

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to sorrows," he said. "It was a beautiful day. Two young men, almost the same age, with the most beautiful women in the world as wives. In seconds, it turned to tragedy."

He said there had been "real warmth and understanding" by the people who crowded the motorcade route in Dallas Friday to see the president.

He said he tried not to acknowledge the ovation because it was John Kennedy's.

"Not 30 seconds before the tragedy, Nellie said (to the Kennedys), 'You can never say that some people in Dallas don't love you.'"

Connally, who had been Kennedy's first secretary of the navy and had resigned to run for governor, said:

"Within the space of a few seconds, you can't believe what can happen. You go from great joy to great tragedy."

There should be a monument to Kennedy in Dallas, he said. Marble or granite.

"But the people should not erect it out of penitence. The hate in our society manifested itself in this thing in Dallas."

"Hate Manifests Itself"

The same hate was present, he said, in the bombing of the Negro church in Birmingham last summer when five children were killed.

Lying in his hospital bed, he said, he thought of many things and "why my life was spared."

"I know there has been some speculation that I was the intended victim. I have traveled many thousands of miles all over the state, riding in cars and making speeches in public many times. I could have been easy prey at any time. With no security, no protection."

Questions had been prepared in advance and brought to him by one reporter while others watched on closed circuit television outside the room.

What about the new president, fellow Texan Lyndon B. Johnson? he was asked.

"I think I have been as close to him as any man," Connally replied. "I went to work for him in 1939 and we served in the navy together."

He said President Johnson is "a person of many complexities."

He noted that he was the man who managed Johnson's campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1960 and failed.

"In some ways, he (Johnson) is unlettered. But in some ways he is as literate a person as you will ever know, wise in the ways of human understanding."

"He is a man of great poise and at other times he is determined and almost rude."

The new president, he said,

was born in "rugged country in arduous times. He pulled himself up by his bootstraps. He understands the heartbeat of the nation, probably as well as any man who has ever been president of the United States."

"If I had to have a man to deal my hand, it would be him," Connally said.

WEA Convention

Appleton, Wis.—Appleton has been selected as the site for the 1964 annual convention of the Northeastern Wisconsin Education association. More than 7,000 teachers from 17 counties are expected to attend.