

Profile of the Courageous 35th President

by The Associated Press

John Fitzgerald Kennedy, 35th President of the United States, was the first American chief executive to face the imminent possibility of nuclear war and to move to protect American interests despite the awful risk involved.

In the waning months of the second year of his first term he confronted Soviet Russia's Premier Nikita Khrushchev with a demand to remove Russian nuclear missiles set up in Cuba.

He ordered a naval quarantine on such offensive weapons being sent to the island nation, said ships carrying them would be turned back and called on the Russian Premier to withdraw the weapons already there.

5-Day Wait—

For five days the nation and the world waited for word from Khrushchev. On Sunday, Oct. 28, Khrushchev announced he had ordered work stopped on missile bases, said the missiles would be returned to Russia and promised that the United Nations would verify the dismantling.

Although Khrushchev's retreat was interpreted as a step forward for the United States and the Free World in the Cold War, there still were trouble spots around the earth.

And as Mr. Kennedy began the second half of his first term,

perplexing problems which plagued him during his first year still awaited settlement.

Nuclear Tests—

Unsolved was the question of West Berlin which Khrushchev sought to free of Allied occupation troops. The United States and Russia still were unable to agree on disarmament and banning of further nuclear tests. Communist penetration continued in Southeast Asia. Communist China had invaded India. Latin America, poor and economically backward, was a target of propaganda from Cuban Prime Minister Fidel Castro. And in Africa, newly-emerged nations groped their way unsteadily toward stability, often with violence.

To help evaluate these problems Mr. Kennedy had an acquaintanceship, at least, with the world leaders. There had been a summit meeting with Khrushchev in Vienna. He had met abroad and at the White House with British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan, West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer and French President Charles de Gaulle.

On the home front Mr. Kennedy still faced recurring problems. He received some solace from the fact that expected Republican inroads in the 1962 off-year election failed to materialize. However, the nation was troubled by desegregation

and the business community viewed Mr. Kennedy with distrust.

Space Race—

The race into space quickened. Although the United States had sent three men into earth orbit, Russia, spectacularly, at least, seemed ahead. It had sent two men simultaneously into twin orbits and for many more circuits of the globe.

The Cuban crisis in October 1962 was not the first time Cuba worried Mr. Kennedy.

Soon after he was inaugurated Jan. 20, 1961 Cuban refugees with U.S. backing invaded their homeland in an attempt to wrest it from Castro.



SEPTEMBER WEDDING—President and Mrs. Kennedy leave church after their wedding at St. Mary's Church in Newport, R.I., Sept. 12, 1953. (Unifax Photo)

Castro's Russian-built military might crushed it completely. Anticipated defections from Castro's forces failed to materialize. And the United States did not come to the invaders aid militarily. U.S. prestige abroad plummeted.

'Call a Halt'—

While the invasion was in progress Khrushchev warned Mr. Kennedy to "call a halt to the aggression" or else Russia would give "all necessary assistance" in resisting the invasion. But the President replied:

"In the event of any military intervention by outside force, we will immediately honor our obligations under the inter-American system to protect this hemisphere against external aggression."

This is what he did in October 1962.

Tension in Washington—

The nation's first inkling came Sunday, Oct. 21. There were reports of evidence of tension in Washington, but newsmen were unable to pin down the exact cause.

On Monday it was announced Mr. Kennedy would address the nation at 7 p.m. on a matter of greatest urgency. Meanwhile, it was learned that Congressional leaders had been summoned back to the capital.

Without wasting words the President outlined evidence of atomic missile sites in Cuba. He put the blame squarely on Russia which had been assuring the United States it was sending only defensive weapons to the island. Said Mr. Kennedy:

"This secret, swift and extraordinary build-up of Communist missiles in an area well known to have a special and historical relationship to the United States and the nations of the western hemisphere is a deliberately provocative and unjustified change in the status quo which cannot be accepted by this country, if our courage and our commitments are ever again to be trusted by either friend or foe."

He ordered a quarantine on all such offensive weapons for

Cuba and said ships carrying them would be turned back.

He called on Khrushchev to withdraw weapons already there and cease preparation of missile sites. If this were not done, he said "further action" would be taken. Aerial surveillance would continue, he added.

Meanwhile, United Nations Acting Secretary General U Thant asked both Mr. Kennedy and Khrushchev to suspend both the arms blockade and arms shipments for two or three weeks pending negotiations. Khrushchev accepted. Washington agreed to cooperate to avoid a confrontation.

Twenty hours after the proclamation was issued a Russian ship carrying oil was intercepted. It was allowed to proceed.

Tension mounted. The Kremlin stalled. On Friday, Oct. 26, the State Department called attention to the President's speech in which he said if missile site preparation continued "further action will be justified."

Offer to Withdraw—

At 9 p.m. that night a letter arrived from Khrushchev. Although not explicitly stated, it contained an offer to withdraw the offensive weapons under UN supervision in return for a guarantee the United States would not invade Cuba.

The United States advised

Khrushchev if he was offering to remove offensive weapons for an end to the blockade and a U.S. promise not to invade Cuba, it was a deal. Khrushchev the next day agreed.

Third Visit—

With the Cuban crisis still simmering, West German Chancellor Adenauer flew to Washington to confer with Mr. Kennedy on the Berlin problem.

The Soviets charged the United States with airlifting saboteurs and spies into West Berlin for action against East Germany and other Soviet bloc nations.

At home Mr. Kennedy found himself at odds with the business community and deep in the civil

rights program.

Steel Increase Fought—

Industry gasped when he cracked down on U. S. Steel for announcing a \$6 a ton price increase after signing a wage agreement with the United Steelworkers Union.

The Administration had been following the negotiations for a contract with much interest. It did not want one which would include a large wage increase in the belief such an agreement would force a price increase and be an inflationary threat to the country's economic health.

A modest contract was reached and the then Secretary of Labor Arthur J. Goldberg hailed it as a contribution toward price stability.

When Roger M. Blough, president of U. S. Steel, personally advised Mr. Kennedy of the price increase, Blough touched off 72 hours of governmental activity which he and his colleagues could not have expected.

During that period four anti-trust investigations of the steel industry were conceived by government officials, a bill to roll back the price increase was seriously considered, legislation to impose price and wage controls on the industry was discussed, the FBI questioned newspapermen in the dawn and the Defense Department—biggest buyer in the nation—began to divert purchases away from United States Steel.

Some other steel companies followed the lead of U.S. Steel. Mr. Kennedy held a news conference.

In a cold fury—aides said he felt he had been double-crossed by the industry—Mr. Kennedy denounced the increase as "wholly unjustifiable and irresponsible defiance of the public interest." He said the steel men had shown "utter contempt for their fellow citizens."

Price Rise Recalled—

U.S. Steel finally had to back-down after several major companies said they would hold the price line.

Blough and Mr. Kennedy met

at the White House again. The meeting was called "useful and cordial." The President told a news conference "this administration harbors no illwill against any individual, any industry corporation or segment of the American economy."

Business continued upset, however, by what its leaders called government interference in its operations. Mr. Kennedy sought to dispel this in a speech before the United States Chamber of Commerce.

But after the speech some businessmen complained that the Government showed a "naked display of power" in its counteraction against U.S. Steel.

Racial Strife Occurred—

Twice during his first two years in office Mr. Kennedy was forced to act against mob violence in the South where integration efforts were fought.

In the spring of 1961 Negro and white groups, calling themselves Freedom Riders, sought to break down bus station racial barriers and ran into violence in Alabama. There were incidents at Anniston, Birmingham and Montgomery, among others. The worst was at Montgomery.

At least 20 persons were beaten with fists and clubs in a bloody riot there. The rioting around the Greyhound bus station continued for nearly two hours before the white mob—numbering close to 1,000 at times—was broken up with tear gas by state and city police.

President Kennedy's brother, Attorney General Robert Kennedy, ordered several hundred U. S. marshals to Montgomery. Gov. John Paterson declared "qualified martial rule" and sent National Guardsmen to Montgomery. The Guardsmen with fixed bayonets scattered a howling mob that tried to overwhelm Federal marshals protecting a Negro church mass meeting.

Far worse rioting—two persons were killed—occurred Sept. 30, 1962, when Negro James H. Meredith sought to register at the all-white University of Mississippi in Oxford. He finally registered with the aid of U. S. marshals and Federal troops but not before an

awful nightmare of tear gas and buckshot, rifle bullets and flying bricks.

Federal Power Defied—

It was the biggest clash of state versus Federal power since the Civil War. The nation and the world watched tensely as Mississippi's Gov. Ross Barnett sought to defy the Federal government which was determined to uphold Federal court orders admitting Meredith.

Meredith made four attempts to register at the University. On the first try on the campus Barnett blocked him and invoked interposition—putting himself and the state's police powers between orders of the Federal court and the people of the state.

Unruly Mob—

When marshals finally escorted him to an apartment on the campus on Sunday, Sept. 30, an unruly mob of 2,500 students, towns people and out-of-towners opened up with a barrage of rifle bullets, rocks, bottles and acid. The marshals fought back with tear gas.

Meanwhile, Mr. Kennedy, who had made a fruitless appeal for order, dispatched federalized Mississippi National Guardsmen and troops to the college town.

Meredith registered the next day and began classes under the protection of marshals.

Space Race Pushed—

The race to conquer space continued during Mr. Kennedy's first two years.

The Russians, who had pioneered in space exploration, had sent two men into space, one on a 17 orbit mission, before Marine Lt. Col. John H. Glenn boosted American morale by circling the earth three times. He was followed by Navy Lt. Cmdr. Malcolm Scott Carpenter who made another triple round-the-earth flight.

On Oct. 3 Navy Cmdr. Walter M. Schirra Jr. orbited the earth six times. But before he did so the Russians had sent two men into twin orbits, one for four days and the other for six.

There were varied estimates on how the President fared with the 87th Congress which was controlled by his own Democratic party.

Administration leaders claimed a 70 per cent record on adoption of Mr. Kennedy's program. Senate Minority Leader Everett Dirksen said, "Never in the history of the nation has the Congress spent so much time accomplishing so little as it did in the second session of the 87th Congress."

Program Hit by Coalition—

A coalition of Conservative Democrats from the South and conservative Republicans from the North thwarted the President on some of his favorite measures.

The 87th Congress rejected his proposals for Federal aid to public elementary and secondary schools, health insurance for the aged under Social Security, a Cabinet Department of Urban

Affairs, stiff controls on production of surplus farm crops and stand-by authority to initiate public works projects and reduce income taxes to combat economic recessions.

The Congress approved an increase in the minimum wage

from \$1 an hour to \$1.25. It increased Social Security benefits and liberalized requirements for qualifying under the program.

Grant Powers—

It passed a Trade Expansion Act which gave the President an unprecedented grant of new tariff-cutting powers to use as a bargaining lever for mutual tariff concessions by the European Common Market and other non-Communist countries. It approved establishment of a private corporation to develop, own and operate a communication satellite system.

A \$600 million aid program was adopted for Latin America and out of it grew the Alliance for Progress, a program to aid the undeveloped, poverty stricken countries to the south.

During the 87th Congress the 23rd Amendment to the Constitution, giving the residents of the District of Columbia the right to vote in national elections, was ratified. The Congress approved and sent to the states for ratification another amend-

THE DAILY TRIBUNE

Saturday, Nov. 23, 1963

Page Nine

ment outlawing the poll tax as a qualification for voting in elections for Federal office.

Peace Corps Established—

By executive order President Kennedy set up a Peace Corps to aid underdeveloped nations and Congress appropriated money for its existence.

Mr. Kennedy said he was "heartened by the results of the off-year 1962 election in which Republicans failed to make expected gains for the 88th Congress. In the Senate Democrats gained from 64 to 68, reducing the Republican minority from 36 seats to 32. There were 259 Democrats in the House against 176 Republicans in contrast to 261 Democrats and 174 Republicans in the 87th Congress.

Among the new Senators was the President's youngest brother, Edward M. (Teddy) Kennedy who was elected in Massachusetts to the seat once occupied by the President. His appearance in the Senate meant that the three Kennedy brothers were in the Federal government.

It was on a freezing Jan. 20, 1961, that Mr. Kennedy was

sworn in as President. He took the oath of office with his hand on a Bible that had been in his mother's family for generations.

Youngest Elected President—

His inaugural speech was devoted almost entirely to foreign affairs.

Inaugurated with Mr. Kennedy was Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson of Texas. They had served together in the Senate, where Mr. Kennedy spent eight years. Previously he had served six years in the House.

Mr. Kennedy at 43 was the youngest man ever elected President. He also was the first Roman Catholic President.

Mr. Kennedy was elected with a comfortable electoral majority — 303 to 219, with only 269 needed — but his popular vote margin was the narrowest in 76



VISIT TO OAKLAND—President Kennedy speaks at AFL-CIO Labor Day picnic in Oakland Park in Pontiac Sept. 5, 1960, when he was Democratic nominee for presidency. (Tribune Photo)

years. This margin was 113,057 out of a total of 68,832,778 votes cast, about one-tenth of one per cent.

The total vote divided this way: Mr. Kennedy 34,221,531;

Nixon 34,108,474; others (including minority parties) 502,773.

Got Minority of Total—

Nixon carried 26 states; Mr. Kennedy 22. All of Mississippi's electoral votes were unpledged and went to Sen. Harry F. Byrd of Virginia. Six of the 11 Democratic electors chosen in Alabama were unpledged and voted for Byrd also. The other five voted for Kennedy.

Mr. Kennedy, descended on both sides from Irish immigrants of the mid-19th century, had an inherited background of politics

and a record of accomplishments in public affairs. He was also a war hero and a successful author.

Son of Multi-Millionaire—

One grandfather, Patrick Joseph Kennedy, a saloonkeeper and Democratic ward leader in East Boston, served in both branches of the Massachusetts Legislature.

The other, John F. (Honey Fitz) Fitzgerald, was mayor of Boston for two terms and a Representative in Congress. He ran for the Senate in 1916, but was defeated by Henry Cabot Lodge, whose grandson and namesake Mr. Kennedy defeated in 1952 for reelection to the same office.

The younger Lodge, as Republican nominee for Vice President, opposed Mr. Kennedy



PACIFIC VETERAN—President Kennedy wearing Navy Marine Corps medal for gallantry in action in photo taken in 1944 in Boston; and in battle dress photo taken in South Pacific. He served in South Pacific as PT boat commander during World War II. (Unifax Photo)

again in the 1960 election.

Mr. Kennedy's father, Joseph P. Kennedy, who amassed a fortune that a 1957 survey by Fortune Magazine placed in the \$200 to \$400 million category, served as chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission and of the Maritime Commission, and later as U.S. Ambassador to the Court of St. James's.

Running Mate a Protestant—

Before Mr. Kennedy's election, membership in the Catholic Church had been generally considered a political handicap for anyone seeking the Presidency. But Mr. Kennedy carried most

of the traditional Protestant South as well as the big Northern states with large Catholic populations.

Senator Johnson, his running mate, was a member of the Christian Church.

His cause was helped considerably by appearances on television in a series of four "great debates" with his Republican rival, who until that time had been much more clearly established in the public consciousness.

Called Youth Advantage—

The millions of television viewers saw the image of a young, vigorous candidate, poised, cool, highly informed, quick on his feet and, above all, possessed of a reassuring self-confidence.

Mr. Kennedy was so young when he first went to Congress that he frequently was mistaken for a pageboy. Even as a freshman Senator he once had a similar experience. As he started to board the miniature subway car which runs between the Senate Office Building and the Capitol, a guard bawled at him:

"Stand back! Wait till the Senators are seated, PLEASE!"

Mr. Kennedy waited.

Many Political Assets—

Mr. Kennedy was boyishly handsome, carrying a slim 175 pounds on his 6-foot frame, topped by a shock of unruly chestnut hair that was almost a trademark. He had a blue-eyed open-faced look, a friendly smile

and a studied carelessness in dress and demeanor.

His World War II record and his authorship of a best-selling book, "Profiles in Courage," added to his stature.

Only 23—

In 1940 he wrote "Why England Slept," an analysis of England's attitude before the start of the war. At that time he was only 23.

Mr. Kennedy's father served as ambassador to Britain just prior to and during the early part of the war.

Father and Son Differed—

When John Kennedy launched his Senate career, his

father said he was "in complete disagreement" with him on foreign policy.

Young Kennedy was an outstanding advocate of internationalism and strongly supported aid to Europe after World War II.

It was in that conflict that he distinguished himself as a junior

grade naval lieutenant in command of a PT boat in Blakett Strait, off the enemy-infested Solomon Islands.

Mr. Kennedy was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps medals and the Purple Heart.

One-of-his brothers, Joseph P. Jr., a Navy pilot, was killed in action in Europe in 1944.

Sister and Husband Killed—

A month later, the husband of one of his sisters, Kathleen, died in action in France. He was the Marquess of Hartington, a captain in the Coldstream Guards. Lady Hartington herself met tragic death in the spring of 1948, along with three others, in the crash of a plane in France.

For most of his adult years, Mr. Kennedy was plagued by back troubles.

These started with an injury he suffered while playing football during his sophomore year at Harvard. Then came a spinal injury in the South Pacific action. Mr. Kennedy underwent three operations, one so serious that he was administered the last rites of the Catholic Church.

An operation in 1945 was performed to relieve the pressure of nerve fibers on his spine. While preparing to make his first race for the Senate in 1952, Mr. Kennedy suffered a renewal of the pain.

At Death's Door—

In October of 1954 he decided on another operation. This time

doctors performed a spinal fusion operation in which bones in the affected area were fused with the help of an inserted metal plate. An infection developed and Mr. Kennedy lay near death for a while. He spent eight months in convalescence but failed to recover completely.

Another operation was performed in 1955 to remove the metal plate, to which the infection apparently was related.

In the Spring of 1961, Presi-

dent Kennedy strained his back when he tossed several spadefuls of dirt as a ceremonial tree planting in Ottawa, Canada. Though in pain, Mr. Kennedy rushed off to Europe for a series of conferences with other world leaders. After his return, he had to hobble around on crutches for a time.

Wore a Brace—

The President wore a corset-like brace for his other back injuries and had a quarter-inch lift in the heel of his left shoe to compensate for a slight difference in the length of his legs. He slept with a board under his mattress.

Born in Brookline, Mass., May 29, 1917, Mr. Kennedy received his bachelor of science degree cum laude from Harvard in 1940 and then studied at the London School of Economics.

His father set up a million-dollar trust fund for each of his nine children when they were in early childhood. The Kennedy wealth was amassed from such widely diversified interests as banking, liquor, motion pictures, theaters, Wall Street and real estate.

In Congress at 29—

Mr. Kennedy entered politics at the age of 29, when he was elected to Congress. That was in

1946.

After winning reelection twice to the House of Representatives, he ran for the Senate in 1952 and defeated Senator Lodge.

Mr. Kennedy's political stock was enhanced further when he won reelection in 1958 by the largest plurality ever piled up for a Senate seat in Massachusetts—almost 900,000.

In 1953 Mr. Kennedy and Miss Jacqueline Lee Bouvier were married in St. Mary's Catholic Church at Newport, R.I.

A daughter, Caroline Bouvier, was born in 1957. Three years later there was a son, John F. Jr. A baby boy, Patrick Bouvier Kennedy, died two days after birth in August.

