

Kennedy's Death: Senseless, Isolated, Insane

By DON HOENSHILL
Sen. Robert F. Kennedy is dead. He died for no reason. The world's condolences are flowing into the United States and into the Kennedy compound at Hyannis Port with a faint stink of scum showing through the grief.
It was the freedom that America has preserved against contrary ideologies and forces which enable assassins to plot and kill.
KENNEDY, WINNER in all presidential primaries except Oregon, was celebrating his California victory over Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy in Los Angeles' Ambassador Hotel at 3:06 a.m. Detroit one of his many all-catchy, brilliant and serious as he addressed his people. The crowd was cheering and shouting and shouting.

was leaving to go to another ballroom where others waited. A nondescript Jordanian immigrant waited in the narrow service corridor chosen as a shortcut by Kennedy people. He fired four times, and Kennedy was wounded. Surgery and the prayers failed to save him. Kennedy died. And America was again stricken.
STUNNED POLITICIANS wept and their grief called up the tragedies of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in Dallas Nov. 22, 1963 by Lee Harvey Oswald.
They remembered the more recent slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King in Memphis, the civil rights murder of Medgar Evers.
McCarthy walked into the shambles of his rallied but now shocked supporters in Los Angeles and made his statement. He swallowed hard several times, as though struggling to stay proper.
In Washington, Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey contacted the Kennedy family to offer help. President Johnson invoked his emergency powers to assign Secret Service men to all presidential candidates.

At the death of the president, Bobby became the family's next-in-line. He moved to New York and became its junior senator, joining Edward, by then senator from Massachusetts. The Kennedys are close. Edward became Bobby's troubleshooter in the campaign.



SEN. KENNEDY was mobbed on his last visit to Detroit.

RFK's Last Speech

"I think we can end the divisions within the United States."
"We can work together to overcome divisions, violence, disenchantment."
"We can start to work together. We are a great country, a selfless country, a compassionate country."

He was in Michigan twice recently, once to address the Michigan Democratic Party's Jefferson-Jackson Day dinner, then later he came to the Democratic State Convention to work for Bobby.
The candidate, himself, was in Michigan twice this spring -- once in Lansing to confer with party leaders, then again in Detroit to speak in Kennedy Square.
That last visit was three weeks to the day before his death.
Federal investigators are looking for a conspiracy -- as they have done before. But on the surface, the picture presented to the world is at this moment one of dismay.
THE KILLINGS of the two Kennedys, of Dr. King and Medgar Evers and others -- all appear to be senseless, isolated.
"The real tragedy, as horrible as all these killings were, is that no one gained, everybody lost," said one political leader. "There was no apparent reason for any of them, however evil the reason was."
"Obviously is a terrible reason for these deaths."
Political people have lost their taste for battle, at least temporarily. No one wants to debate issues when the basic fibre of the nation is under question. Kennedy supporters are at sea, but no more than the nation's conscience.
Kennedy people earlier sought a merger with McCarthy because both sounded about the same on issues. They were certain of one thing -- both wanted a change they could not see happening with Humphrey.
So we in America bury our dead and we grieve.
And again we seek salvation.

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THERE WAS the tragedy of the family.
It started as a political dynasty but was destroyed at each major step.
Headed by Joseph Kennedy, the multimillionaire businessman who still owns the Chicago Merchandise Mart, the family grew to prominence. Joseph Jr., first seen as the political star of the Kennedys, was killed in World War II.
A sister was hopelessly retarded.
Jack -- the World War hero of PT 109, author and man of the world -- went to Congress and later to the United States Senate. He did what war deprived his brother, Joseph Jr., from doing.
Bobby was the hardline strategist behind Jack. He figured the angles and plotted the course. He was cool and impatient when the stakes were his ideals for himself, his family and the nation.
THE GOOD BOBBY, the one with ideals and dreams for the people, became the Bad Bobby in the minds of his critics because of impatience and single-mindedness in achieving them.
CRC Has 1,500-Case Backlog
LANSING -- The Michigan Civil Rights Commission currently has a backlog of 1,500 cases.
The commission is running behind at the rate of 50 to 60 cases a month, co-chairman John T. Dempsey, of Dearborn, reported in a series of meetings with representatives of news media in Michigan last week.
The commission chairman said the commission staff is handling an average of 50 cases a month, but that the number of complaints presented to the commission is running from 140 to 150 cases a month.

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