

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR

JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY

Friday, November 22, 1963

GAWLER'S WAS NOTIFIED, BY TELEPHONE AT 4:25 P.M., TO BE PREPARED TO PROVIDE FUNERAL SERVICES FOR OUR 35TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY. THIS INSTRUCTION WAS RECEIVED FROM COLONEL PAUL MILLER.

A SHORT TIME LATER, WE WERE ADVISED THAT A DETACHMENT OF CEREMONIAL AND SUPPORT PERSONNEL WOULD BE DISPATCHED TO GAWLER'S TO COMMENCE REHEARSING THE DEATHWATCH. THESE TROOPS ARRIVED AND REHEARSED FOR SEVERAL HOURS. A TELEPHONE CALL WAS RECEIVED FROM THE MILITARY DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON ORDERING ALL TROOPS TO WITHDRAW FROM THE GAWLER'S FACILITY FOR NEW ASSIGNMENTS.

COLONEL MILLER NOTIFIED GAWLER'S TO DISPATCH A HEARSE TO ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE TO MEET AIR FORCE ONE (#26000). ETA AT 5:58 P.M, MILITARY BODY-BEARERS WOULD REMOVE THE PRESIDENT'S BODY FROM THE AIRCRAFT TO OUR HEARSE, AND WE WOULD RECEIVE FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS IN REFERENCE TO THE DESTINATION, ETC.

AT APPROXIMATELY 5:00 P.M., THESE ORDERS WERE RESCINDED AND WE WERE ADVISED THAT A U.S. NAVY AMBULANCE WOULD BE DISPATCHED TO MEET AIR FORCE ONE AND TRANSPORT THE PRESIDENT'S BODY TO ITS DESTINATION.

COLONEL MILLER CALLED TO ALERT US THAT THE BODY WOULD BE TAKEN, DIRECT FROM AIR FORCE ONE TO THE U. S. NAVAL MEDICAL CENTER, IN BETHESDA, MARYLAND, FOR EXAMINATION AND ALERT OUR EMBALMING TEAM TO BE READY TO RESPOND TO THAT FACILITY PREPARED TO EMBALM, COSMETIC, DRESS, CASKET AND DO WHATEVER ELSE HAD TO BE DONE TO PREPARE HIS BODY TO BE RETURNED TO THE EAST ROOM, OF THE WHITE HOUSE, TO LIE IN REPOSE FOR PRIVATE VIEWING.

MR. HAGAN HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH THE WHITE HOUSE, CONCERNING CATHOLIC EQUIPMENT.

LATE EVENING MESSRS. O'LEARY, O'DONNELL, O'BRIEN AND POWERS (KENNEDY'S STAFF) ARRIVED TO SELECT THE CASKET FROM GAWLER'S SELECTION ROOM. (THE CASKET THE PRESIDENT ARRIVED IN FROM DALLAS WAS DAMAGED - FROM THE HANDLING ON THE AIRPLANE - AND THE AMBULANCE). THEY SELECTED A MARSELLUS 710 SOLID MAHOGANY AND A WILBERT TRIUNE/COPPER LINED VAULT.

JOSEPH GAWLER IMMEDIATELY DROVE TO THE NAVAL MEDICAL CENTER FOR MEETINGS WITH MDW OFFICIALS, SECRET SERVICE, FBI AND HOSPITAL STAFF.

JOSEPH HAGAN RESPONDED TO THE CENTER WITH THE EMBALMING TEAM - JOHN VAN HOESEN, EDWIN STROBLE AND THOMAS ROBINSON.

GAWLER AND HAGAN CONTINUED MEETINGS WITH MDW, HOSPITAL STAFF, SECRET SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF STATE, ETC. AT THIS MEETING WE WERE INFORMED TO STANDBY, UNTIL ALL EXAMINATIONS OF THE PRESIDENT'S BODY, WERE COMPLETED.

Saturday, November 23, 1963

CLEARANCE WAS RECEIVED TO PROCEED WITH THE PREPARATION AFTER 11 P.M., NOVEMBER 22, 1963. UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF MR. HAGAN, THE EMBALMING, COSMETICS, RESTORATION (EXTENSIVE CRANIAL DAMAGE), DRESSING AND CASKETING WAS COMPLETED BY 4 A.M. ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1963.

SECRET SERVICE AGENTS, UNDER DIRECTION OF ROY KELLERMAN, REMOVED THE CASKETED BODY OF THE PRESIDENT OUT OF THE AUTOPTSY ROOM AREA ONTO THE LOADING DOCK IN THE SAME VICINITY AND PLACED THE BODY INTO THE NAVY AMBULANCE.

SECRET SERVICE AGENTS HAD SUMMONED MRS. KENNEDY, ROBERT KENNEDY, TED KENNEDY, PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S SISTERS, MR. POWERS, MR. O'DONNELL, O'BRIEN, SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, McNAMARA FROM THE 17TH FLOOR OF THE HOSPITAL AND ESCORTED THEM DOWN TO AN ANTEROOM NEAR THE LOADING DOCK. THEY REMAINED THERE UNTIL THE CASKET WAS SECURED IN THE AMBULANCE.

ROY KELLERMAN, BILL GREER (S.S.Agents), JOSEPH GAWLER AND JOSEPH HAGAN ASSISTED THE PRESIDENT'S WIDOW AND ROBERT KENNEDY INTO THE REAR COMPARTMENT OF THE AMBULANCE. (MRS. KENNEDY WANTED TO BE NEXT TO THE PRESIDENT AND TOUCH THE CASKET AS SHE HAD DONE RIDING IN THE AMBULANCE FROM ANDREWS A.F.B. TO THE NAVAL MEDICAL CENTER).

AGENT GREER DROVE THE AMBULANCE, AGENT KELLERMAN SAT UP FRONT WITH HIM. WE JOINED THE ESCORTED PROCESSION AND DEPARTED THE MEDICAL CENTER. WE PROCEEDED, WITH HEAVY SECURITY, (but no sirens) AT ABOUT 30 MILES PER HOUR. THE 9½ MILE TRIP WAS CONCLUDED AT THE WEST GATE OF THE WHITE HOUSE AT 4:24 A.M. JOINT MILITARY BODY-BEARERS REMOVED THE PRESIDENT'S BODY FROM THE AMBULANCE AND CARRIED IT TO THE EAST ROOM. SARGENT SHRIVER WELCOMED THE FAMILY AND OFFICIAL PARTY. THE CASKET WAS PLACED ON THE "LINCOLN CATAFALQUE".

AS SOON AS THE BEARERS STEPPED BACK FROM THE CASKET - A ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIEST MOVED UP TO THE CASKET AND INSTRUCTED THE ALTAR BOYS TO LIGHT CANDLES. THE PRIEST KNELT AND SAID PRAYERS AFTER BESTOWING THE TRADITIONAL BLESSING.

THE HONOR GUARD WAS INSPECTED AND POSTED AT PARADE REST, NEAR THE CASKET.

GENERAL GODFREY McHUGH, U.S.A., AND CLINT HILL (S.S. Agent) STOOD MOMENTARILY AT THE CASKET. AN USHER CAME UP TO AGENT HILL AND INFORMED HIM THAT MRS. KENNEDY WOULD COME DOWN SHORTLY AND WOULD LIKE THE CASKET OPENED FOR A FEW MINUTES. JOSEPH GAWLER STOOD BY TO HANDLE THEIR REQUEST, AND ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS.

MRS. KENNEDY WAS ESCORTED BY ROBERT KENNEDY. THEY REMAINED AT THE CASKET FOR A FEW MINUTES WITH AGENT HILL. MRS. KENNEDY WAS STILL WEARING THE PRESIDENT'S DRIED BLOOD ON HER STRAWBERRY DRESS AND ON HER STOCKINGS. SHE ASKED AGENT HILL FOR SCISSORS. MR. HILL GOT THEM. SHE REACHED IN AND SNIPPED A LOCK OF THE PRESIDENT'S HAIR. MRS. KENNEDY THEN TURNED AWAY.

THE CASKET WAS CLOSED AND THE FLAG WAS DRAPED OVER THE CASKET.

THE BODY WAS LYING IN REPOSE IN THE EAST ROOM, FOR THE FAMILY AND INVITED DIGNATARIES TO PAY THEIR RESPECT ON SATURDAY FROM 10 A.M. TO 6 P.M.

001234

Sunday, November 24, 1963

MEETINGS WITH SECURITY FORCES AT U. S. CAPITOL. ALSO MEETINGS WITH MDW OFFICIALS AND PROTOCOL STAFFS - JOSEPH GAWLER AND JOSEPH HAGAN FOLLOWED.

STANDBY CHURCH TRUCKS SENT TO THE CAPITOL ROTUNDA.

MEETINGS WITH MRS. KENNEDY'S SECRETARY CONCERNING THE "ETERNAL LIGHT" CONCEPT FOR THE PRESIDENT'S GRAVESITE FOLLOWED.

1 P.M. — BODY BORNE BY OFFICIAL CORTEGE FROM THE WHITE HOUSE DOWN PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE TO THE ROTUNDA OF THE CAPITOL AND PLACED IN STATE MOURNING. BODY WOULD LIE IN STATE FOR PUBLIC VIEWING.

Monday, November 25, 1963

MEETINGS WITH MDW, U. S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, SECRET SERVICE, CATHOLIC CHURCH AUTHORITIES AND REHEARSALS AT ST. MATTHEW'S CATHEDRAL. CHURCH TRUCK TO CATHEDRAL.

AT 10:30 A.M., THE BODY WAS REMOVED FROM ROTUNDA OF THE CAPITOL. PROCESSION MOVED TO THE WHITE HOUSE AND ON TO ST. MATTHEW'S CATHEDRAL.

AT NOON A LOW PONTIFICAL REQUIEM MASS AT ST. MATTHEW'S CATHEDRAL, CELEBRATED BY RICHARD CARDINAL ~~CUSHING~~, ARCHBISHOP OF BOSTON. ATTENDANCE BY INVITATION, ONLY. ^{CUSHING}

AFTER MASS, THE PRESIDENT'S BODY WAS BORNE BY OFFICIAL CORTEGE FROM ST. MATTHEW'S CATHEDRAL TO ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY. OVER ONE MILLION MOURNERS FORMED A LINE TO THE CEMETERY. THE PROCESSION ARRIVED AT THE GRAVESITE AT ABOUT 2:30 P.M. AS THE CASKET WAS PLACED ON THE LOWERING DEVICE - FIFTY FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, ONE FOR EACH STATE SHOT ACROSS THE SKY. A MOMENT LATER AIR FORCE ONE, THE PRESIDENT'S JET, WITH COLONEL "JIM" SWINDAL AT THE CONTROLS FLEW BY AT 2000 FEET, TRAVELING 517 MILES AN HOUR.

AFTER PRAYERS BY RICHARD CARDINAL CUSHING, A 21 GUN SALUTE, THE TRADITIONAL THREE VOLLEYS OF MUSKETRY - A BUGLER AT A DISTANCE SOUNDED TAPS.

THE BODY BEARERS LIFTED THE FLAG FROM THE CASKET, FOLDED IT AND THE FLAG WAS PRESENTED TO MRS. KENNEDY. MRS. KENNEDY LIGHTED THE "ETERNAL FLAME".

DIGNATARIES FILED PAST THE GRAVE UNTIL 3:30 P.M. AT PRECISELY 3:32 P.M., THE CASKET WAS SLOWLY LOWERED INTO THE GROUND.

JOSEPH GAWLER AND JOSEPH HAGAN REMAINED TO SEE THAT THE VAULT WAS SECURELY CLOSED AND SEALED AND TO SPEND A FEW MOMENTS SAYING GOODBYE TO OUR MARTYRED PRESIDENT AND REFLECTING ON FOUR LONG DAYS OF "CARING" FOR PRESIDENT JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY.

001235

ACTUAL TIME SEQUENCE
STATE FUNERAL FOR PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY
25 NOVEMBER 1963

- 1038 - Start Ceremony at Capitol - Mrs. Kennedy Arrived
- 1050 - Depart Capitol
- 1133 - U. S. Marine Corps arrived East Gate, White House
- 1134 - U. S. Color arrived East Gate, White House
- 1139 1/2 - U. S. Marine Corps departed North West Gate, White House
- 1157 - Mrs. Kennedy arrived at Cathedral
- 1209 - Honors at Cathedral
- 1214 - Casket goes into Cathedral
- 1317 - Departure from Cathedral (message via radio)
- 1355 - Procession at 17th and Constitution (head of column)
- 1407 - Procession at Memorial Circle (head of column)
- 1427 - General Wehle arrived at dismount point
- 1438 - U. S. Marine Corps in place at graveside
- 1447 - Caisson halts
- 1447 - Honors at graveside