John Fitzgerald Kennedy

Yesterday's tragedy in Dallas is a real one to millions of American citizens. Polls taken in recent months had shown President Kennedy at the bottom swing of national popularity, insofar as measures of his program were concerned. Still, President Kennedy was far better known to the average citizen of this country than any previous chief executive in the nation's history. And personally, when considered apart from his job, there is little doubt Mr. Kennedy was one of the nation's most popular Presidents. He and his photogenic family were better known to most citizens than the mayors of their own home towns.

Mr. Kennedy had his problems, unemployment and the racial problem among them. But he leaves to his successor a strong economic base. And he will be remembered forever for his willingness to take a strong stand when strength was indicated, particularly during the Cuban crisis of a year ago. He preserved a political system which allows for a completely orderly transition from one man to another in times like these. He also leaves a country which has a record of killing or shooting at one out of each three Presidents.

This is a rather critical time in American national history. But the country has lost three Presidents, before Mr. Kennedy, from assassination. And each time the wheels have managed to keep turning. President Johnson, who only Thursday was unsure of re-nomination as Vice President, took an immediate grasp on the reins of government. Whether he will consolidate and extend his personal influence remains to be seen.

President Johnson has long been recognized one of the country's most able politicians. He gained most of his reputation as a wheeling and dealing Senate majority leader. He is undoubtedly going to find Mr. Khrushchev harder to deal with than recalcitrant members of the U.S. Senate. He probably will, at first at least, have an easier time dealing with Congress than his predecessor. Mr. Johnson, before he became Vice President, was a true Congressional insider, a position never held by Mr. Kennedy during his service in the national legislature.

It is hard to understand yesterday's tragic event occurring in this country. This is the sort of thing one might expect in a tight dictatorship, or in a newly-emerged African nation. But this is a country in which anyone can speak up, any time he wishes, get it off his chest, so to speak. It's impossible for a normal person to understand the kind of buildup which must take place before an assassination of the country's leader can take place.

In spite of his troubles in the South, in spite of the "backlash" effect from dissatisfaction with his civil rights program in the North, Mr. Kennedy was almost certain to have been re-elected a year hence. American voters almost never refuse to return to office a President who seeks another term. The notable exception in recent years was the defeat of President Hoover in 1932.

The speed of yesterday's events was breath-taking. Five hours after the first bullet was fired, Mr. Kennedy's body was back in Washington. Mr. Johnson had been sworn in and had traveled over 1,000 miles from Dallas to Washington, had gone to the White House, had made a public statement, had called Congressional leaders to a meeting, and was planning a session with Cabinet members.

Contrast, if you will, the death of President Garfield, who died two and one-half months after he was shot in the Washington railroad station.

President Kennedy, for two weeks, had been running hard for re-election next year. This was the second week in which he had spent much time out of Washington, on assignments which varied from vaguely political to outright bids for next year's votes. But for this fact and an accident in the weather, he would have probably been alive today.

Mr. Kennedy was riding in a car generally considered bulletproof. But the top was down so he could stand up and wave at the huge crowd which had greeted him. Stories which were sent before the shooting noted the crowd was not altogether friendly, but this had been expected in Dallas, one of the main homes of the radical right in this country.

Had not the trip been political, there would have been no parade and no windows rolled down. And had not the weather suddenly cleared from the rainstorm which had been spattering the streets all morning, the cover of the limousine would have been up to protect the President, his wife, and his guests.

It's been no secret that for many years the Secret Service has felt the most serious problem in providing security for the President came when he rolled slowly in an open car through a large city's streets. It was impossible to check every window, every occupant of every building along a route of a dozen or so miles. Yesterday's event proved the service's worst fears.

Kennedy was of a new generation

'Born in this century, tempered by war, disciplined by a cold and bitter peace'

By United Press International

John Fitzgerald Kennedy

On a bitterly cold and snowy day in January, 1961, when he was inaugurated 35th president of the United States, John Fitzgerald Kennedy sounded a call to action that in many ways summed up his own remarkable career.

"Let the word go forth from this time and place, to friend and foe alike," he said, "that the torch has been passed to a new generation of Americans—born in this century, tempered by war, disciplined by a cold and bitter peace."

Kennedy was all these, and he bore the torch of world leadership in a society where the old order was changing fast. On that January day, no man had ever flown in space. On that day Negroes in southern cities such as Jackson and Birmingham were not yet demonstrating. On that day the world had not come consciously close to nuclear destruction as it did in the great Cuban crisis of 1962.

"A Big Job"

"Sure it's a big job," Kennedy once said. "But I don't know anybody who can do it any better than I can. I'm going to be in it for four years. It isn't going to be so bad. You've got time to think — and besides, the pay is good."

He later found out — and conceded — that it was a bigger job than he originally believed. But it is most unlikely that he ever once wavered in the belief that no one could handle it as well as he could. To think otherwise would have been a negation of his whole life.

The presidency of John Fitzgerald Kennedy was born in the fierce pride of an Irish immigrant family. It was carefully nurtured in the training stages by a multi-millionaire father, and brought to fruition by the man himself through a career in the House and Senate and on the campaign trails of America.

In a manner typical of his family, Kennedy started at the top in many things.

He was a product of Choate, Harvard and the London School of Economics. He produced his first book, "Why England Slept," in 1940 at the age of 23. On his second literary try in 1956, he won a Pulitzer Prize for his widely acclaimed "Profiles in Courage."

He also started at the top in politics. There was nothing up-from-the-precincts in his career. He started after the war by winning a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives from his native state of Massachusetts. After six years in the House he ran for the Senate. That year — 1952 — was a bad year for Democrats because of the Eisenhower landslide. But Kennedy defeated Henry Cabot Lodge, a scion of an old New England family whose Brahmin roots were so vastly different from those of the Kennedys.

With the largest voter turnout in history, he defeated Vice President Richard M. Nixon in 1960 by scarcely 100,000 ballots. Kennedy's 34,227,096 popular votes gave him an Electoral College edge of 330 to 219 over Nixon, who got 34,108,546 popular votes.

Kennedy entered office on a surge of towering personal popularity. The new President, his strikingly attractive wife, Jacqueline, and their children made one of the most appealing and photogenic families ever to occupy the White House.

His great problems at the start were foreign policy and the domestic economy. In many ways both were later to be overshadowed by the Negro "revolution" of 1963 which confronted the nation with one of its gravest domestic crises since the Civil War.

Overseas, there was the ever-present threat posed by the Soviet Union, the troubles in Southeast Asia, and — over and over again — Cuba. The Kennedys had barely unpacked their bags in 1961 when the image of the bright young American President was tarnished by the ill-fated Bay of Pigs invasion. The plan to land exiles in Cuba in an attempt to overthrow Fidel Castro was conceived in the Eisenhower administration, and executed by the Kennedy men.

The disaster—for which Kennedy accepted full responsibility—lay like a pall on the administration for months. But if April, 1961, was a fiasco, October, 1962, was an unprecedented triumph.

The Cuban missile crisis was a test of all the skill and courage that Kennedy could command. By ordering a blockade but not sinking any ships, by talking softly but carrying the big stick of nuclear retaliation, he forced the Soviet Union to withdraw the missiles it had placed in Cuba and thereby scored one of the greatest Western triumphs of the cold war. Just as the Bay of Pigs was the low-water mark of the first years, the Cuban crisis was the high tide.

Born Near Boston

The man at the troubled U.S. helm through this vast sea of difficulty was born at his family's Brookline, Mass., home outside Boston May 29, 1917. He had an older brother, Joseph P. Kennedy Jr., who was killed in World War II. After John's birth, four girls, Rosemary, Kathleen, Eunice and Patricia, followed before the third son, Robert F. Kennedy, was born in 1925. He became attorney general in his brother's administration. After Robert, there was another girl, Jean, and then Edward F., the last of nine children, born in 1932. The youngster of the family continued the tradition of successful politics by being elected . . . senator from Massachusetts in 1962 at the age of 30.

After the war, Jack Kennedy dabbled in newspaper work, then decided to try for a Boston congressional seat being vacated by the incumbent. Only 29, he campaigned hard, talked pocketbook issues and won the nomination over a field of nine other Democrats. Running in a normally Democratic district, he easily defeated his Republican opponent in the election.

By 1948, Kennedy was beginning to seek statewide recognition with an eye to running against Sen. Henry Cabot Lodge Jr. in 1952. For the campaign against Lodge, he again relied on a personal political organization as he had done when he first ran for the House.

In that 1952 campaign, the entire Kennedy family of brothers and sisters and in-laws moved in to help with "coffee hours" and other political innovations. They were to be used again later in Kennedy's 1960 campaigns in state presidential primaries.

Lodge lost his Senate seat to Kennedy while President Eisenhower carried the state by more than 200,000 votes.

Marries Jacqueline

Kennedy was married Sept. 12, 1953, to Jacqueline Bouvier, then 23, at a fashionable wedding at Newport, R. I. Like Kennedy, she came from a wealthy New England Catholic family, although she had lived mostly in New York and Washington. A daughter, Caroline, was born in 1957; a son, John Jr., in 1960.

There were times when Kennedy's policies seemed as middle-of-the-road as those of his predecessor, Dwight D. Eisenhower. This was highly annoying to the advanced liberals of the party.

There were major administration accomplishments legislatively, but not one was gained without extensive effort and close margins. Relation with Congress were not helped when the Democrats scarcely held their own in the 1962 mid-term elections. Kennedy, however, derived comfort from the fact that the Democrats did not lose as many seats as usual for the party in power during an off-year election, but the net results showed the country still narrowly divided between the major parties.

During his early years the President devoted most of his domestic efforts to the state of the U.S. economy. His bruising, crushing battle with Big Steel in 1962, when he forced the major producers to rescind price increases, gave him an "anti-business" label which he disowned but came to accept as almost inevitable. But many of his later economic proposals won business support.

The state of the economy, he felt, was the nation's No. 1 domestic concern. But this feeling went out the window in the spring of 1963 when the Negro population exploded in demonstrations and sit-ins and marches which became so grave that the President called the movements a threat to public order. To counteract it he submitted a drastic program of civil rights legislation to congress and used all his own personal influence to bring whites and Negroes together.

Johnson brings legislative ability to post

By William Theis
UPI Staff Writer

WASHINGTON (UPI)—Lyndon B. Johnson, the nation's new president, is a hard-driving Texan who lost the 1960 Democratic nomination to John F. Kennedy, but then served as his younger rival's vice president with unflagging loyalty.

Friday's tragic assassination of Kennedy in Texas elevated the 55-year-old Johnson to the post he sought and lost in a bitter convention fight three years ago.

Johnson, who suffered a near-fatal heart attack eight years ago, is possibly better prepared legislatively and administratively than any vice president in history who has been called upon to take up the task of the presidency.

And in his service as vice president with the slain President, Johnson showed a humility and devotion that was new to many political observers.

The hate-killing of Kennedy came ironically only six months after Johnson, in paying lavish tribute to Kennedy, had said "seeds of hate . . . have fallen on stony ground and withered in the sunshine." The reference was to the way he said Kennedy had won the hearts of many people who formerly disliked him.

Johnson has close to three decades of Washington experience behind him. He became president with infinitely greater experience for the job than Kennedy, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Harry S. Truman—or even Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Not only in Congress, however, did Johnson accumulate the background that will stand him in good stead at the White House since becoming vice president—a job he said he would never accept while he actively opposed Kennedy for the nomination—Johnson has added to his wealth of experience.

In turn, Kennedy refused to assign Johnson to the back of the political shelf, even though their political beliefs were often sharply contrasting when they were in the Senate together. Johnson took a major hand in many domestic and foreign affairs—and knows many of the world's leaders.

Kennedy sent his vice president around the world where Johnson and his wife, Lady Bird, won warm popularity. He visited sections of Europe as recently as early this month.

But Johnson now has been thrust into the world's biggest job only after pulling one of the biggest surprises of the decade —when he said "yes" to Kennedy's request that he be his running mate.

Johnson's health appears good. There has been no recurrence since he was felled by a severe heart attack in July, 1955. It was the most serious crisis of his life but he recovered.

Johnson — the eighth vice president to become the president—served as a House member, as a senator and as what many congressional veterans call the greatest Senate majority leader in current political memory.

Lyndon Baines Johnson was born Aug. 27, 1908, in a frame house on the banks of the Pedernales River, near Stonewall, in the scraggly hill country of central Texas. Sam Ealy Johnson, a Texas legislator, and Rebekah Baines Johnson, a gentle, education-minded woman, were his parents.

At the age of 27, Johnson made a bold bid for a seat in Congress. He defeated nine opponents as an out-and-out New Deal backer.

New President pledges to do his best in nation's highest office

By Robert Barkdoll
UPI Staff Writer

WASHINGTON (UPI) —Lyndon B. Johnson took over the burdens of the presidency Friday night, pledging to do his best in the nation's highest office with the help of God and the American people.

Still stunned by the assassination of John F. Kennedy, the new President began his White House tenure by meeting with Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara and presidential aide McGeorge Bundy shortly after his arrival in the capital from Texas.

The former vice president, known as an exacting taskmaster, also summoned Democratic and Republican congressional leaders to the White House for a mid-evening conference on the difficult legislative problems he faces.

Johnson Takes Oath

Johnson, only a few cars back when an assassin's bullet felled his predecessor in a Dallas, Tex., motorcade, already had been sworn into presidential office by a woman judge before he left on the capital-bound plane that bore the body of President Kennedy.

John F. Kennedy died at 2 p.m. EST. Lyndon Johnson was sworn in at 2:39 p.m. EST., and left Dallas immediately for Washington.

He arrived in the capital at 5:58 p.m. EST., and was at work almost at once. He flew to the White House from Andrews Air Force Base in a helicopter and touched down on the grounds of the mansion at 6:27 p.m. EST. for the first time as president of the United States.

Under floodlights at Andrews Air Force Base just outside Washington, the grim Texan read his first statement as the nation's 36th president. While his wife stood by his side with partially bowed head, he said:

"This is a sad time for all people. We have suffered a loss that cannot be weighed. For me it is a deep personal tragedy. I know the world shares the sorrow that Mrs. Kennedy and her family bear. I will do my best. That is all I can do. I ask your help—and God's."

After a brief discussion with the many saddened congressional leaders and other officials at the airport, he boarded a helicopter for the short ride to the White House in downtown Washington—a route travelled often by President Kennedy.

Congressional Leaders Called

Within minutes, President Johnson was in the executive mansion ready to carry out his new and grave responsibilities. From Dallas, he already had arranged the conferences with the congressional leaders, McNamara and Bundy, the presidential adviser on national security affairs. Bundy, a former Harvard professor, was one of Kennedy's most important advisers.

It was aboard the presidential plane at Dallas that the 55-year-old Johnson took the oath which made him the 37th Chief Executive and the fourth in U.S. history to succeed to the White House upon the assassination of a president.

"I do solemnly swear," he intoned, "that I will perform the duties of president of the United States to the best of my ability and defend, protect and preserve the Constitution of the United States."

Witnessing the swearing-in were Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy, widow of the slain president, and Mrs. Lady Bird Johnson, the new First Lady. They returned to Washington on the plane with the President, the same craft that bore President Kennedy's body.

The oath was administered by U.S. District Judge Sarah T. Hughes, 67, an old friend of the Johnson family.

Among the first orders issued by the new President was a directive to the crew of the presidential aircraft, known as "Air Force I." Immediately after being sworn in, he told the crew: "Okay, let's get this plane back to Washington."

In the capital he found at least a temporary air of helpfulness among members of both parties who had been horrified by the Kennedy assassination.

Senate Republican Leader Everett M. Dirksen, Ill., who seemed almost overcome by the Dallas tragedy, said that nevertheless "the work of the nation has to go forward."

Dirksen said the long-range impact of Johnson's succession would have to await his January State of the Union message. But the veteran lawmaker said frankly that he could see no disappearance of the disputes now embroiling Congress.

The new President faces somber ritual Saturday when at 11 a.m. he views the body of President Kennedy as it lies in repose in the East Room of the White House.

The body was taken overnight to the Bethesda, Md., Naval Hospital, just outside Washington, in a dark grey Navy ambulance. Closeted in grief behind drawn curtains rose Mrs. Kennedy, accompanied by several close friends and Atty. Gen. Robert F. Kennedy.

4 emergencies have brought in vice presidents

By United Press International

In this century four vice presidents of the United States have become presidents in emergencies.

On Sept. 14, 1901 Theodore Roosevelt was sworn in at Buffalo upon the death of President William McKinley who had been shot in that city on Sept. 6.

On Aug. 2, 1923 Calvin Coolidge took the presidential oath by the flickering light of an oil lamp in his father's home in Vermont. He succeeded President Warren G. Harding who had died of a stroke earlier that evening in the Palace Hotel in San Francisco.

On April 12, 1945 Harry S. Truman was sworn in as President in a ceremony at the White House within a short time after Franklin D. Roosevelt's sudden death at Warm Springs, Ga.

On Nov. 22, 1963 Lyndon B. Johnson took the oath of office aboard an Air Force jetliner at Dallas, Tex. On the same plane as it prepared to take off for Washington was the body of President John F. Kennedy who had been assassinated on a Dallas street a few hours before.

OPENS HOSPITAL OFFICE

DALLAS (UPI)—Gov. John Connally's staff has opened a temporary governor's office on the first floor of Parkland Hospital, where Connally is recovering from grievous wounds.

A spokesman for Connally said the temporary office will be in operation indefinitely or until the governor recovers enough to return to Austin.

Ex-President expresses grief

NEW YORK (UPI)—Former President Herbert Hoover, 89 and ailing, received the news of President Kennedy's assassination Friday in his Waldorf Tower apartment and said he was "shocked and grieved."

"He loved America and has given his life for his country," the former President said. "I join our bereaved nation in heartfelt sympathy to Mrs. Kennedy and their two children."

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Persons and Such

ACROSS

1 Dean, Mary or Tony
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13 Fancy
14 Satiric
15 George —s
16 Italian condiment
17 In three ways (comb. form)
18 East (Fr.)
20 Always (contr.)
21 Fixed salary
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21 Reported
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23 Packed in graduated series
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29 Peel, as an apple
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31 Interpret (dial.)
37 Herons
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40 Egyptian sun god
41 Circle parts
42 Whip
43 French verb "to be"
45 Dalai —
46 Let it stand
47 Sellers, as hay
49 Anger
50 Staff
52 Seine
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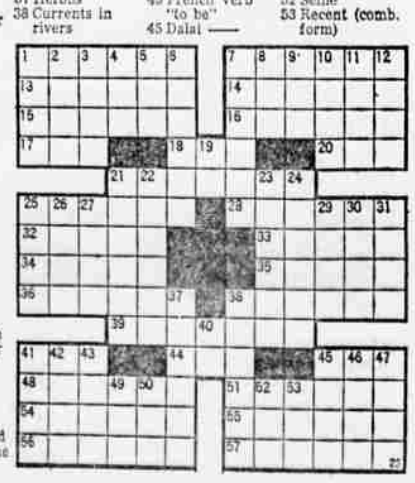
Answer to Previous Puzzle