

# Mrs. Kennedy Speaks Up on Two Years in White House

Editor's note: Two years ago a slim reserved young woman moved her two small children into the White House, openly fearful of its possible influence on their lives. In the following exclusive interview with Helen Thomas, who covers the White House for United Press International, Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy assesses what has happened since. She also tells something of what she expects for the next two years.

By HELEN THOMAS  
United Press International  
Washington - (UPI) - Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy feels the private life of the First Family has been overemphasized and that "people must be as

sick of hearing about us and Macaroni as I am."  
The thing she enjoys most about living in the White House is "seeing my husband be a great president."  
She will not write a book about her life as First Lady.  
Mrs. Kennedy spelled out these and other attitudes in an exclusive interview with United Press International as she marked her second anniversary in the White House.  
It was one of Mrs. Kennedy's rare public expressions on the role that she made her world famous. She wrote answers to 20 of 21 questions submitted to her (omitting one which asked her favorite sport).

Since she was thrust into the spotlight because of her husband's election, the 33-year-old Mrs. Kennedy has tried to lead two separate lives - a personal one as a wife and a mother, and a public one as First Lady of the land.  
**Children First**  
The first, however, dominates the second, and she made that clear in her comments.  
Asked what she hopes to achieve in the next two years of President Kennedy's term, she replied: "More time with my children, for they are at an age where it is important that their parents be with them as much as possible."

Her desire is to keep Caroline and John Jr. unspoiled, and to give them a normal family life. Nothing annoys her more than to see their pictures in the papers.  
It was partly this and partly because of the mass of publicity surrounding the First Family that prompted her remark that the public must be as tired as she is of reading about the Kennedys and such accomplishments as Macaroni, Caroline's pony.  
**True to Form**  
In this same vein she replied rather tartly but philosophically when asked her views on stories appearing about her in movie magazines.  
"In this changing world," Mrs. Kennedy said, "it is rather

reassuring whenever one finds a fixed element. The movie magazines - in the calibre of their stories - remain true to their expected form."  
In her early days as mistress of the historic White House, she viewed the loss of her anonymity as "frightening." Against heavy odds, she tried to maintain her privacy and personal identity. She tried to draw lines that the public and the press should not cross. But to her dismay, their interest in her was total.  
Today, through sheer determination and vast success in her pet projects to restore the White House to a new elegance, she has gained new stature and an authoritative poise. Her travels to some 12 countries, reaping a bounty as an ambassador of good will, has added to her confidence.  
Her popularity is renowned. When she is not with the president for his public appearances, crowds are disappointed and apt to shout, "Where's Jackie?"

**Held Press Ties**  
During the 1960 presidential campaign Mrs. Kennedy held press "teas" and captivated reporters with her frankness and wit. She responded in turn by saying she would occasionally hold press conferences "if they are all like this." She has not done so.  
The reason, she explained in the interview, was because "the press always covers my official engagements and is kept abreast of my projects and I prefer not to answer personal questions, so that leaves little for a press conference."  
Although she also said that she believes the non-official side of her family's lives has been over-emphasized, she added that "the press has been very interested in my official projects and has helped such things as the restoration

immensely."  
By her project to put the executive mansion on the level of splendor it deserves, she has aroused a new national pride in the White House. A familiar sight in the capital is the long line of men, women and children waiting to get their trip through the public rooms of the mansion.  
The public responds to the restoration project, she said, has been wonderful. She added that "I have worked harder on this project than I ever have on anything, and so it has been especially gratifying."  
With the exception of some third floor guestrooms, all the rooms are finished that the fine arts committee planned to do, Mrs. Kennedy said.

"Now we can relax and look for great paintings and objects of historical significance, and work on filling the library with appropriate books."  
Mrs. Kennedy had a succinct answer to one question: "How would you describe your first two years in the White House."  
She replied: "Busy".



PREFERS HOME LIFE—Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy at 33 is First Lady of the nation and a mother to two small children. Here, she holds son, John, Jr., while President Kennedy leads daughter, Caroline, in Palm Beach, Fla. (UPI)

### Small Worlds Around Us

By LYNN M. WATKINS  
(Register and Tribune Syndicate, 1963)

**What's Answer to Question: What Good Are Bluejays?**  
The man was indignant. He bought peanuts for the squirrels that daily visited his garden but the bluejays stole the nuts; the birds, being somewhat more active than even the frisky rodents, got the "lion's share" of the peanuts. The question the man wanted answered was, "What good are the jays?"  
The same question, with variations, can be asked about a countless number of living creatures - even of plants, weeds, reptiles and fish. The answer has to do with ecology, a word which probably will become more important as time goes by and more and more living creatures are destroyed, many killed off before we know enough to know what definite purpose they really do serve.  
Ecology means the relationship between seemingly unrelated beings as they pertain to the overall plan; we used to call it "natural balance," and whether we believe it or not, it is going to become increasingly important.  
It might seem far fetched, but it is believed to be true by many thinking people, that just about everything has a definite place and purpose, that each is a cog in the wheel that helps the entire plan function. Unfortunately, we have not progressed quite far enough along the unfamiliar road of biological science to know what is really important and what is expendable.  
**Two Sides**  
Take the gentleman's question, "What good is a blue-jay?" Naturally, there are two sides to the question. On the debit side is the noisy habit of screaming and scolding this perky bird in the policeman's blue coat is famous for. We must agree, too, that the jay steals objects, and has been known to rob the nests of other birds. As far as human reasoning is concerned the jay has no place; it serves no purpose.  
On the credit side are several questionable qualities, some of which are still hidden behind the biological veil. This much is certain: the jay does eat some harmful insects. His scolding and screaming warns other birds of the approach, or presence, of danger. Probably he does not intend to alert others so they can escape, but his loud yelling sometimes warns others which may be insect-eating

### Speech Tourney At Southern Oregon

Ashland - Southern Oregon college met College of the Siskiyous in a speech tournament recently on the Ashland campus in a series of speaking events, conducted largely for purposes of criticism and practice.  
Four non-decision debates on the national question, "Resolved, That the Non-Communist Nations of the World Should Establish an Economic Community," were conducted by Burton West, Bill Davis, and Linda Priddy of CS. Representing SOC were Barbara Gysin, Phoenix; Jim Manuel, Myrtle Creek; and Bruce Lattin, Klamath Falls.  
In the other event, extemporaneous speaking, conducted on "The American Political Scene," Jim Manuel placed first. Other speakers from SOC in this event included Al Sherman, debate manager, Douglas, Ariz.; David Desmond, Antelope Valley, Calif.; and Faye Palmerton, Rogue River. Burton West represented CS in the event, and John S. Scroggins of that institution accompanied the group as adviser. Dr. Harold Barrett is adviser to the SOC team.  
On Feb. 28 and March 1-2, the squad will travel to Linfield to participate in the annual tournament of champions.

### Newspaper Pickets Invited Inside

Cleveland, Ohio - (UPI) - A note of accord was struck today in the eight-week-old newspaper strike which has shut down the Cleveland Press and Cleveland Plain Dealer.  
Louis B. Seltzer, editor of the Press, a Scripps-Howard newspaper, invited Teamsters Union and Newspaper Guild pickets, on duty in below zero temperature in front of the Press building, to take positions inside the building.  
Pickets from both unions accepted.

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### WET RECEPTION

Fort Worth, Tex. - (UPI) - Someone sneaked into the darkened baptistry of the Polychrome Church of Christ and fell into 4 1/2 feet of water. The Rev. Leroy Brownlow said he found a stack of wet newspapers Wednesday outside the baptistry but nothing of value was missing from the church.

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