A Final Word...

By STEVE SMILEY

The news crackled over the small transistor radio in the Moyer classroom.

John F. Kennedy, thirty-fifth President of the United States, was dead. A few moments before, we had bowed in prayer for our nation. Now its leader was gone, felled by an assassin’s bullet.

The Student Union Building was crowded with students craning their necks to watch the televised news reports. The campus voices were hushed and there were no smiles. We were stunned.

JOHN FITZGERALD Kennedy’s ascendency to the presidency began at his birth in 1917. Descended from poor Irish immigrants who had made good, he was born into the family of Joseph P. Kennedy, who had amassed a fortune of some $200 to $400 million. John was early introduced to the world of politics by his father who served in a number of appointive posts including the ambassadorship to England.

In 1938 John Kennedy went to England with his father and gathered material for a book he later wrote, “While England Slept.” After graduating from Harvard, young Kennedy secured a navy commission and served with distinction in the Pacific theater of World War II, on PT Boat-109.

After the war, he ran for Congress and won, despite the Republican sweep of 1946. He was returned twice before campaigning for the Senate in 1952. He defeated Henry Cabot Lodge, although Dwight D. Eisenhower carried the state for the presidency. While in the Senate he published the book, Profiles in Courage, which won him a Pulitzer Prize and a national reputation.

NARROWLY DEFEATED for the vice-presidential nomination in 1956, Kennedy came back a strong contender for the presidency four years later. He won seven state primaries to gain the Democratic nomination and waged a vigorous campaign. He defeated Richard Nixon by a hair’s breadth to become the first Roman Catholic president and youngest man elected to that office.

In his inaugural address he pledged American might to preserve liberty throughout the world. He asked the American people for sacrifice—“Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country.” Determined to raise the national prestige abroad, he established the Peace Corps, one of his most successful ventures for promoting good will among peoples. In that same month he suffered his most spectacular reversal—the Bay of Pigs fiasco, which did more damage to American prestige than it did to Castro’s hold on Cuba.

MANY AMERICANS felt that Kennedy redeemed this disaster by his firm stand in the Cuban crisis of October, 1962. In a dramatic statement of United States policy Kennedy proclaimed a “quarantine” around Cuba, till the shibboleth, build-up of Soviet missiles on the island was halted and the missiles removed. During that week of crisis, Khrushchev backed down and the United States scored a moral victory.

In another show of force, President Kennedy sent troops and military advisers to South Vietnam to help that little nation quell its Communist guerrillas. Yes the President always sought for peaceful solutions wherever possible. Only a month before his death, the United States and the Soviet Union signed a limited nuclear test-ban treaty.

On the domestic scene, President Kennedy will be remembered best for his strong stand for civil rights. In a televised address he recounted the wrongs suffered by persons of minority races and declared, “We owe them, we owe ourselves a better country than that.” A Newsweek poll revealed that most American Negroes regard Kennedy as one of their heroes in the struggle for equal rights.

IT IS TOO EARLY to predict the place of John F. Kennedy in American history. Yet in his tragically short administration he achieved a notable record. The Peace Corps stands as a monument to his desire for international good will. He demonstrated American might in the Cuban quarrel, an event which may prove a turning point in the East-West relations. His unselfish stand for equal rights helped to implement the ideals of our first assassinated president, Abraham Lincoln. His record indicates that he will hold an honored place among our American presidents. AND WE WILL miss him. It is hard for us to understand that we will never again see his shock of unruly hair or broad smile, nor will we hear his broad Harvard accent rallying the nation in a time of crisis. But we will remember the pledge he made for us in January, 1961, “we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and success of liberty.” And we will strive to secure the world he envisioned, “a new world of law, where the strong are just and the weak secure and the peace preserved.”

...For A Great Man
Hatred Like Infection

Hatred is like an infection. It seeks to destroy, to mutilate, to kill. It does not stop with one act; it goes on and multiplies. Such happened this weekend. The hatred did not stop at the assassination of our beloved President; it went on to kill a Dallas policeman, then finally the assassin himself.

OUR GENERATION WAS introduced to a world of hate. We were born in the midst of a World War. We have watched violent uprisings rock countries around the globe. We have seen priests burn themselves, while others looked on in fiendish glee. We have seen the homes of Negroes bombed, and men lynched because of their color. We have looked on in horror as men, women and children were shot down at the Berlin Wall while attempting to escape the clutches of Communism. Where does it stop?

When Jesus Christ came to earth, He sought to destroy hatred. He asked men to act with compassion and love towards one another. Yet, He too was a victim of hate. He acted out of mercy to all He met, shining the Light of God into the darkness of men's hearts. But His life of light was snuffed out by the very wickedness and hatred he sought to destroy.

WE SEE THE ANGUISH of the Kennedy family, and we cannot help but wonder if there is justice. What use is it to love, if all you get in return is hate and death and more death?

Through our anguish we must see that Jesus Christ must reign supreme. We must never be allowed to stoop to the tactics of cowardice and hatred of men like Lee Harvey Oswald. We must fight for peace and goodwill between men as Christ fought, through love that had teeth in it. God's love would not stand for malice, injustice, prejudice, and hatred. It is significant that the words of our late President, in a speech never delivered, said, "The righteousness of our cause must always underlie our strength, for as it was written long ago, 'Except the Lord guard the city, the guard watches in vain.'"

Tragic News Strikes SPC

The news spread quickly and quietly over the campus of Seattle Pacific Friday morning. Everywhere people gasped in unbelief; but it was true, the President was dead. Small groups of students huddled around transistor radios straining for bits of information coming over the national networks.

IN THE COFFEE shop of the Student Union, and in Hill Hall, students and faculty members watched the television sets that had been set up there. The only noise to be heard was the sliding of chairs as people slowly entered to find a seat and watch.

Ricardo Marroquin, a student from Guatemala City, mirrored the shock of the student body. "I can't believe it. Especially in the United States," he said. "We had an assassination in our country, and it nearly wrecked the whole country. You are more peaceful here."

AS NEWS REACHED individual classrooms, professors led their classes in prayer. Some students broke into tears. It was difficult in the face of the news to continue the task of schoolwork.

"When I heard the news, I thought the person was kidding," said Bob Gorham. "When I found out it was true, I still found it hard to believe."

Lunch hour came. There was but one topic of conversation. "I think I realized too late how great he was," said Judy Clarke. "Somehow I feel I didn't appreciate him enough."

"IT'S LIKE something you read in history books," said ASSPC President Bob Screen. "I just can't believe it would happen in this day and age."

The flag in front of the administration building was immediately flown at half-mast. Later it was announced that classes would not be held Monday in accordance with President Johnson's proclamation for a national day of mourning.

"I THOUGHT of President Kennedy like my father," said Abdulla Younes, a student from Jordan. "He was highly respected in our country. It is hard to believe it could happen in the United States. You don't have an authoritarian government. Anybody can go to the President and tell him what he thinks. What is the use of killing? It is above belief for your country."

As night shrouded the campus, rain continued to fall, and many students and faculty members went to their respective churches to seek guidance and understanding in the face of tragedy.

Johnson Takes Oath In Simple Ceremony

By CORJAAE LINTECUM

A still group gathered in the main compartment of the presi- when, in 1937, he was elected to the 75th Congress. After two and one-half years in the House, he was elected to the Senate. In
Johnson Takes Oath In Simple Ceremony

By CORAJEAN LINTECUM

A still group gathered in the main compartment of the presidential 707 jet at Love Field in Dallas Friday. There, Lyndon Baines Johnson took the oath of office as the 36th president of the United States just two hours after the tragic death of John F. Kennedy.

There was no inaugural festivity. No band struck up "Hail to the Chief." At the American Embassy in Moscow a little later, a Russian student asked, "Who is Lyndon Johnson?"

Lyndon Baines Johnson assumed his new office in his own native Texas. Born near Stonewall in 1908, President Johnson was raised and educated in the Lone Star State. He began his public career as a teacher in the Houston public schools.

The new president's political career also began in Texas when, in 1937, he was elected to the 75th Congress. After two and one-half years in the House, he was elected to the Senate. In 1955 Johnson was chosen Senate majority leader, a position he held for six years. He was a front-line contender for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1960 and was Kennedy's choice as running mate in the election of that year.

As vice-president, Lyndon Johnson was a busy and important man in the New Frontier. He represented the president and the nation in visits to Southeast Asia and to Europe. He attended more top-level meetings than anyone else in Washington, at President Kennedy's request.

Johnson served as chairman of the National Aeronautics and Space Council and chairman of the Committee of Equal Employment Opportunities during his vice-presidency. He was also top man on the Peace Corps Advisory Council. Those closely associated with him acclaim his efficiency and conciseness in organizing and solving the problems he confronted as vice-president.

The late president once told Johnson that he could be the most important vice-president in history. Perhaps the statement has been at least partially borne out as Lyndon Johnson steps into the crucial vacancy left by Kennedy on Friday.

President Johnson stands solidly prepared for the myriad of decisions ahead as he faces the responsibility of leadership for America and the free world.

A Great Man In Our Midst
-- Roloff

"John F. Kennedy was stricken in the midst of his dreams for America and for a peaceful world," said professor Clifford Roloff, who has gone through the shock of a presidential death three times.

"This tragedy has caused us to realize, just as in Lincoln's case, the greatness of the American who has been in our midst. We now have a clearer perspective of his goals and aspirations."

Roloff was an assistant professor of history at Seattle Pacific College, April 12, 1945, when this country lost its 32nd president. "With Roosevelt there wasn't the tragedy," he said. "He was an older man who had seen most of his programs fulfilled and the war virtually won. But Kennedy had just begun, and he was so young."

ROLLOFF REFERRED to Kennedy's prize-winning, Profiles in Courage. "Courage was a part of his very nature. He demonstrated it in the Cuban crisis. I think that this (the October 1962 "quarantine") may very well be a hinge point in modern history. I think that it is significant that the one who had to back down in that episode, Khrushchev, went out of his way to personally visit the American Embassy in Moscow to pay respects to the late president."

Roloff said he thought Mike Mansfield's statement about Kennedy was a classic.

"This Good, this kind, this decent man, who was so harassed by the responsibilities on his shoulders and who received from some so little support, has gone to his reward."

Let Us Examine Our Own Hearts
-- Swanstrom

Dr. Roy Swanstrom, professor of history, said that all of us share the blame for the tragic events which occurred in Dallas. "We're so apt to blame other people, yet we all have hatred and prejudice in our hearts," he said.

"In all the communications media we stress personal advancement by force and violence. So many of our colleges and universities stress brains and not character. And in Evangelical Christian circles we show lack of respect toward our public officials by continually leveling charges against them without any evidence."

"Sometimes our main sin is indifference to the awful responsibility borne by the president. I hope we take this opportunity to examine our attitudes to determine whether there is malice, prejudice or indifference in our own hearts," Swanstrom declared.

"I have a quotation that says exactly what I want to say: "In tragic life, God wot. No villain need be! Passions spin the plot. We are betrayed. By what is false within.""

On the historic significance of the late president, Swanstrom said, "He didn't have the time to develop to his full stature."

"I think history will record the Cuban crisis as a discouragement to the Soviet advance in this hemisphere. Khrushchev had no alternative but to back down in the face of the American ultimatum," Swanstrom concluded.

"Johnson Is So Experienced"
-- Walls

"The implications of the president's death run through every phase of our society," said Dr. F. Wesley Walls, professor of political science. "I believe society will do a lot of heart searching about the unreasoned emotional reactions we've witnessed in Dallas."

"I believe these events tend to reinforce the apprehension among other nations that Americans are not substantially stable people," Walls said.

Dr. Walls said he believed the new president will provide good leadership. "Johnson is so experienced in government and so well acquainted with current operation of the government that we have no fear here."

LOOKING AHEAD, WALLS forecast that a Democratic victory in 1964 is now somewhat less than certain. "I consider Lyndon Johnson, Robert Kennedy and Hubert Humphrey as possible candidates for the party nomination."

"I don't see any major foreign policy changes under Johnson," Walls said. "I don't think there will be any personnel changes either, but I think the new president will establish new lines of communication, for example, circumventing Robert Kennedy."

"PROFESSOR HENRY Steele Commager, professor of history at Amherst College, I believe summed up the contribution of President Kennedy's brief administration. According to Commager, Kennedy revived interest in politics for the young and capable men; developed the concept of a strong chief executive; led in the thaw of the cold war; and was a leader in civil rights."