

Numbed Words, 'It Can't Be True,' Heard Across Nation

By Associated Press
The nation reeled in stunned disbelief Friday as the news that President Kennedy had been shot and killed by an assassin...

More than an hour passed before the feated answer came. The President is dead. Anger followed the initial shock.

In downtown Manhattan's criminal courts building a man slammed a newspaper violently onto a desk and ran from a room in near hysteria.

The stock market closed early. Three governors attending the Midwest Governors conference in Omaha, Neb., stood wordlessly around a television set.

Said Sen. Wayne Morse, D-Ore., just before the recess: "If there was ever an hour when all Americans should pray this is the hour."

In Hyannis Port, Mass., where the President planned to spend Thanksgiving, a workman told the President's mother and father about the shooting. It was reported that neither commented.

Kennedy's father, a seminivald as the result of a stroke, was nursing when he was named the President's mother reportedly was planning to leave immediately for Dallas.

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts, the President's brother, was presiding over the Senate when the word came to Washington. An aide informed him and he rushed from the Senate chamber.

From all across the country came reports of stunned disbelief. Hundreds of telephone calls jammed newspaper, radio and television switchboards.

Again and again the words were repeated: "It can't be true." In Boston, Mayor John F. Collins postponed the opening of the city's annual Christmas festival and called upon the whole nation to join in prayer for the President and Gov. John Connelly of Texas.

A New York cab driver, Joseph Kaufman, 60, put his hand to his head and moaned: "Those dirty bums." "As soon as I drop you off," he told a passenger, "I'm going home. I can't work anymore."

Alabama Gov. George Wallace said that whoever fired the shots "must be filled with universal malice toward all."

It is hard to believe that anyone would shoot at the President of the United States.

At a civic luncheon in New Orleans, Mayor Walter Schiro announced the shooting, but his listeners refused to believe him. Finally, he had to say: "No, I'm serious. It's true."

"Oh, dear God," New Mexico Gov. Jack Campbell said upon hearing the reports. "This is a very tragic and cruel thing. I believe that the people of New Mexico and the country will pray for his family and for the country too."



CLOSEUP STUDY OF PRESIDENT AND MRS. JOHN F. KENNEDY AT WHITE HOUSE ON NOV. 13. They were watching the British Black Watch Regiment perform at Executive Mansion for Washington children.

Bullet Entered JFK's Throat

DALLAS—UPI—President Kennedy was shot through the head and throat, the attending surgeon said Friday. Dr. Malcolm Perry, 34, said there was an entrance wound below his Adam's apple. There was another wound in the back of his head.

"I noticed he was in critical condition from a wound in the neck and head," Perry said. "Immediate respiration methods were taken and Dr. (Kemp) Clark was summoned along with other members of the surgical staff."

Two of the 10 physicians in attendance on the President said it was possible that one bullet entered the throat and went through the back of the President's head.

Dr. Clark said "They called me because the President had a brain wound. Tracheotomy and resuscitation were done to relieve the possibility of air being in the pleural space, between the lung and the chest."

JFK's Death Continues 20-Years Coincidence

WASHINGTON—AP—President Kennedy's death continues the coincidence that presidents elected at 28-year intervals in zero-numbered years die in office.

Ike Calls Assassination Of JFK 'Despicable Act'

NEW YORK—UPI—Former President Dwight D. Eisenhower Friday called the assassination of President Kennedy a "despicable act."

No Word if Kennedy's Children Told of Death

WASHINGTON—AP—There was no word at the White House late afternoon Friday whether the President's children had been told of his death.

Senate's Program Is Postponed

WASHINGTON—AP—Majority Leader Mike Mansfield said Friday that the legislative program scheduled for next week would be abandoned.

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ASSASSINATION ADVANCES McCormack 2nd in Line. WASHINGTON—AP—The assassination of President Kennedy moved House Speaker John W. McCormack up to second in line for the White House.

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6 Aides Cancel Trip to Tokyo

WASHINGTON—AP—Six members of President Kennedy's Cabinet were out of the country flying to Japan, when the President was killed. They were expected to speed back to Washington.

President Kennedy Had Usual Threats

WASHINGTON—AP—President Kennedy had the usual run of threats on a chief executive's life. Until Friday's shooting in Dallas, Tex., apparently the most overt action was that of Richard Paul Pavlich, accused of plotting a "human bomb" attempt to kill Kennedy in December 1960 when he was president-elect.

Pavlich, a 78-year-old retired postal worker from Belmont, N.H., was arrested in Palm Beach Dec. 14 of that year while Kennedy was in the Florida resort. In his car were seven sticks of dynamite wired together with a detonator switch.

Several persons who made oral or written threats have been committed for mental observation. In May 1963 Virdeil Willingham, 23, of Wimsboro, N.C., pleaded guilty to threatening the President in three letters sent to the White House demanding help to get back into the military service.

Arrangements for participation in the Kennedy funeral services field, Dayton, said Friday that and for rescheduling the legislative program scheduled for next week would be abandoned.

A bill to prohibit any government agency from insuring sales by Communist countries was introduced by Sen. Everett M. Dirksen, R-Ill., who has been debating starting Monday.

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Clark said the President lived 40 minutes from the time of the shooting until death was pronounced.

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