

Battle by Doctors to Save President's Life

Reuter quoted doctors as saying that the President, driving to give a luncheon speech.

They were possibly caused by the same bullet, but there may have been two bullets.

The President did not regain consciousness from the moment he was struck, the doctors said, according to Reuter.

The President's throat was opened to relieve breathing, and blood and fluids were administered intravenously.

Physicians laboured to keep respiration at a life-sustaining level, U.P.I. said. Dr. Malcolm Perry, the hospital surgeon said he was summoned immediately after the President was brought to the emergency entrance of Parkland Hospital.

Critical

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

They arrived immediately, but at this point the President's condition did not allow complete resuscitation.

"He was critical and moribund. Dr. Clark assisted respiration with oxygen."

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 wall."

"Shortly after I arrived, the President lost his heart action." Dr. Perry tried closed chest cardiac massage, to no avail.

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

Few at Spot

The President, halfway through a three-day Texas tour, was shot at a spot where there were few spectators, A.P. said.

Most of the huge crowd had gathered at other spots along the route.

A crowd of several thousand had been waiting at the Dallas Trade Mart, to

20 Years Between

N.Z.P.A.-A.P. WASHINGTON, Nov. 23. President Kennedy's assassination continues the coincidence that American Presidents elected at twenty-year intervals in zero-numbered years die in office.

The list includes: 1840—William Henry Harrison.

1860—Abraham Lincoln.

1880—James A. Garfield.

1900—William McKinley.

1920—Warren G. Harding.

1940—Franklin D. Roosevelt.

1960—John F. Kennedy.

When word of the President's death was received, many delegates and Secretariat staff wept openly.

Five members of Pres-

ident Kennedy's Cabinet were out of the country, flying to Japan, when the President was killed.

An hour and a half out of Honolulu, the secretaries were advised of the killing, and immediately turned back.

They were expected to speed back to Washington. The party was on the way to a meeting with members of the Japanese Cabinet.

Former President Dwight D. Eisenhower today called the assassination of President Kennedy a "despicable act."

The former President, in a statement issued from his suite at a New York hotel, said: "I share the sense of shock and dismay that all Americans feel at the despicable act that resulted in the death of our nation's President."

Governor Nelson Rockefeller said today that the death of President Kennedy is a "terrible tragedy for the nation and the world."

Former President Harry S. Truman, who himself was an intended victim of assassins' bullets thirteen years ago this month, was too stricken by news of President Kennedy's assassination today to comment immediately.

In Washington Senator Barry F. Goldwater issued a statement from his Washington office today, declaring President Kennedy's assassination "shocking and dreadful."

Senator Goldwater, who had been considered a potential rival of Mr. Kennedy's in next year's Presidential election, learned of the chief executive's death in Chicago.

Later, his office issued this statement on the Senator's behalf: "It is both shocking and dreadful that a thing like this could happen in a free country. The President's death is a profound loss to the nation and the free world."

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THE MAN THEY ARRESTED



Lee Oswald, aged 24, who has been arrested on suspicion of having shot President Kennedy. —Radio Picture

55-year-old Texan Sworn In as U.S. 35th President

WASHINGTON, November 22. LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON was today sworn in as the 35th President of the United States, the Associated Press of America reported. He took the oath of office barely two hours after President Kennedy was assassinated.

The oath was administered by United States District Judge Sarah Hughes aboard the Presidential aeroplane at Dallas' Love Field.

Mr Johnson, 55-year-old wealthy Texas rancher, automatically became President when President Kennedy died.

He had only to be sworn in to take over constitutionally the administration to which he was elected Vice-President in 1960.

Next Year He will serve out the remainder of the Presidential term until the end of next year.

Mr Johnson has served in both Houses of Congress for the past twenty-six years.

He was majority leader in the Senate and a leading contender for the Democratic nomination for President against the then Senator Kennedy in 1960.

In World War II he served briefly as a naval officer in the Pacific and was for seven months a special emissary of President Roosevelt to Australia and New Zealand before returning to Congress in 1942.

Mr Johnson was with the President in the final motorcade. Other cabinet members of the Administration were scattered across the nation and beyond.

Present at the swearing-in were Mrs Kennedy and Mrs Johnson, several staff members and several Congressmen.

Mr Johnson asked as many of the White House people as possible to crowd into the executive suite of the aeroplane to witness the ceremony.

Judge Hughes wept as she administered the oath. The Presidential aeroplane took off immediately for Washington with President Johnson, Mrs Johnson and Mrs Kennedy and some White House aides aboard.

President Kennedy's body arrived by air tonight at Andrews Air Force Base, Washington. President Johnson was in the same aircraft. He has taken over the government.

President Johnson is an intense hard-driving Texan from a family of politicians.

A career politician, he reached Washington at the age of 23 as assistant to Congressmen, to become a Congressman himself five years later.

In his early years he supported the New Deal, and became a protégé of President Roosevelt.

He became a Democratic senator at 40, and at 48 became the youngest-ever leader of the Democratic majority in the Senate.

WORLD MOURNS DEAD PRESIDENT

Wellington "Star" Reporter THE Prime Minister (Mr Holyoake) said his first reaction to the news of the assassination of President Kennedy was one of "stark tragedy."

"My mind almost refuses to accept his death as a fact," said the Prime Minister.

Tired, grey-haired and obviously shaken, he was speaking from his home in Pipitea Street soon after his arrival from Auckland this morning.

"I offer his family and the people of America the heartfelt sympathy of all of us in New Zealand. Their loss is the whole world's loss. Their grief will be shared by peoples of all races everywhere," Mr Holyoake said.

He had met the late President only twice but they were lengthy and intimate meetings.

"I was immediately impressed by his youthfulness, by his vigour and his drive, by the blend of his idealistic fervour, with his practical common sense, by his extraordinary grasp of so many subjects and by the quickness of his intelligence."

"Few heads of State can have combined so much charm or personality with such ability and determination."

Other tributes included: The Leader of the Opposition, the Hon A. H. Nordmeyer: "He in New Zealand looked upon him as a friend who stood for his democratic ideals so dear to our hearts. He was an example to the world."

Shocked The Deputy-Mayor of Christchurch (Mr Harold Smith): "The people of Christchurch are deeply shocked at the dreadful news, particularly in view of the

his visit to America. declared: "I do not know you. But I have read all your speeches and I do not like any of them."

Mrs Johnson whom the President married in 1934, once described her role as that of "a nice quiet background for my husband, to keep his life pleasant and smooth."

Brown-haired and tiny, Mrs Johnson is a clever businesswoman and has directed two radio and television stations.

Tonight Mr Johnson and his wife were to have acted as host and hostess to President and Mrs Kennedy at their "L.B.J." Texas ranch.

To Lie in State WASHINGTON, To-day. PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S body will lie in State to-morrow at the White House, the Speaker of the House of Representatives (Mr John McCormack) has announced.

Mr McCormack said he believed the body would be taken to the Capitol on Sunday, to lie in State in the great rotunda until about noon on Monday.

Traditionally, Presidents who die in office have lain in State in the rotunda. Further plans were indefinite, but it was understood funeral services would be held in Boston.

THE assassination of President John Kennedy was the fourth of a President of the United States during his term of office. Others were Abraham Lincoln (1865), James A. Garfield (1881), and William McKinley (1901).

There were unsuccessful attempts on the lives of President Theodore Roosevelt (1912), President Franklin D. Roosevelt (1933) and President Truman (1950).

The assassination of Lincoln, on the night of April 14, 1865, is probably one of the best known instances of the murder of a head of State.

Lincoln, who had championed the cause of the liberation of negro slaves and the preservation of the Union throughout the Civil War, had advocated the appropriation of 400,000,000 dollars, a considerable sum in those days, for the relief of the South.

"I am considering and will not fail to act, when I see that action will be proper," he said at his last public address.

Fanatic At that time a fanatical advocate of the secession of the South, John Wilkes Booth, an actor, was plotting with others to assassinate several heads of the Government.

On the night of April 14, while Lincoln, with his family and friends, was watching a play in the Ford Theatre, Washington, Booth entered the private box and shot the President through the head at point-blank range with a pistol.

Then, brandishing a knife, with which he wounded Colonel Rathbone, who attempted to stop him, he leapt down to the stage and escaped through the rear of the building.

The President died at 7 a.m. the day after he was shot.

Few Months James Abram Garfield, a lawyer-politician, was shot on July 2, 1881, only a few months after his inauguration on March 4, and lingered until September 19, 1881.

Garfield, who during the election campaign had been the subject of violent personal abuse, and was accused of underhand practices, was shot in a Washington railway station by a disappointed office-seeker, Charles J. Guiteau.

Two Puerto Ricans, Sir Eruera Tirikatene: On behalf of the Maori people of New Zealand, I want to express sadness and shock at the tragic loss of the modern world's greatest political leader. He exemplified other great qualities besides forthright and fearless upholding of the principles in which he believed. He was an example of a man sure in his faith in God and was also the cornerstone of a cohesive family unit. Maori mourn.

Canterbury regional executive of the Social Credit Political League: Never since Abraham Lincoln has there been an American President with such an understanding of the common people and their needs. Undaunted by political pressure, he persisted in his efforts to bring justice to the underprivileged. In the international field, his statesmanship, with its strength, conciliation and understanding, marked him as an historical figure.

Sir John Walsh, President of the United Nations Association in New Zealand: We should remember Lincoln's words: "From this honourable dead we should take increased devotion to that cause for which he gave the last full measure of devotion."—P.A.

Overseas reaction included: Moscow—Moscow Radio broke into the programme to make a "sorrowful report." It did not resume its normal programme but began broadcasting solemn organ music.

Pope Prays Rome—Pope Paul received the news with dismay. He immediately retired to his private chapel to pray.

Paris—The French Prime Minister (Mr Georges Pompidou): "The assassination was 'atrocious.' It is frightful." President De Gaulle: President Kennedy died like a soldier, under fire, for his duty and in the service of his country.

Helsinki—Radio stations throughout Finland stopped their scheduled programmes and broadcast mourning music.

Belgrade—President Tito of Yugoslavia telephoned the United States Charge D'Affaires in Belgrade to offer his condolences.