

I Will Do My Best, Johnson Says

WASHINGTON (UPI)—President Lyndon B. Johnson in his first public statement as chief executive Friday promised to "do my best" in his new and grave responsibilities and asked divine guidance in the task.

Speeding eastward in an Air Force fan-jet transport similar to the commercial Boeing 707, Johnson issued the brief statement as the plane approached Andrews AFB, Md.

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."

The plane, carrying the new president and the body of the slain John F. Kennedy, arrived at Andrews at 5:58 p.m. EST (7:58 a.m. Saturday JST).

The presidential craft was several minutes ahead of time in its arrival at the base, about 15 miles outside Washington, where helicopters waited to transport Johnson to the White House and the slain President's body to the naval hospital in Bethesda, Md.

The huge four-engine jet plane taxied to an area where hundreds of newsmen and cameramen swarmed under floodlights waiting for its arrival.

Those meeting the plane at Andrews included Atty. Gen. Robert F. Kennedy, Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara, General Maxwell D. Taylor, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Senate Democratic leader Mike Mansfield, Republican Senate leader Everett Dirksen and a score of other senators and representatives.

An honor guard of Air Force enlisted men was cordoned around the area.

Six pallbearers, enlisted men from each of the Armed Services, marched behind a yellow elevator-type ramp at the rear door of the plane to assist in removal of the casket.

The bronze casket bearing the body of the dead President was lowered to a gray Navy ambulance for transport from the plane.

Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy, wearing a pink suit and clutching the hand of Atty. Gen. Robert F. Kennedy who had gone aboard the plane, was lowered on the same lift-truck.

After a brief ramp-side discussion with congressional leaders, while a bevy of aides stood nearby, Johnson boarded an Army helicopter for his flight to the White House lawn.



President and Mrs. Kennedy are greeted by Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson and his wife, Lady Bird, as the Kennedys arrived at the Houston, Tex., airport on the tour that ended

with his death. This was the first time the First Lady had accompanied the President on such a trip since the 1960 presidential campaign, when she went with him several times. (AP Radiophoto)

LBJ—A Man Made for Work

WASHINGTON (AP)—Lyndon B. Johnson enjoyed President Kennedy's high esteem and confidence.

From old political foes—with in the Democratic Party—they became a close working team.

Johnson sought the 1960 presidential nomination. When Kennedy won, Johnson accepted second place on the Democratic ticket.

Accepting the Kennedy leadership, he became extraordinarily active in behalf of the Kennedy policies. This included work for the civil rights program Kennedy laid down—something that lessened Johnson's popularity in the South—and there was

some talk this year that Johnson might be removed from the ticket next year.

But on Oct. 31, Kennedy was asked whether, if he ran next year, he would again want Johnson as the vice presidential nominee, and whether he expected Johnson to be on the ticket. He replied:

"Yes, to both of these questions. That is correct."

Johnson is a former Democratic senator from Texas, best known for the vigorous, aggressive way he handled the job of Democratic leader of the Senate before he quit to become vice president.

What direction will the Johnson

Administration take?

In one of the numerous speeches he made in recent years—this one in Washington April 26—Johnson offered a broad view of what he thought the Democrats should attempt in next year's presidential campaign.

He said the Democrats must demonstrate that they are a party of action offering solutions for the new problems brought about by population increases and concentration, and by the lengthening of life expectancy.

"We have new capacities," he said. "We have new potentials. We stand at the edge of a new era of human progress

in our own country and in the world.

"At this decisive moment of opportunity, the party of the opposition offers only the slogan 'America cannot do it—America cannot afford the programs that we need.'"

He called for a full and enthusiastic support of Democrats everywhere for Kennedy's foreign and domestic programs.

"The American majority is constructive—and our party today is serving that constructiveness," he said.

Johnson, 55, suffered a severe heart attack in 1953 but came back strong and is one of the most vigorous politicians ever on the Washington scene.

As Senate majority leader, he was all over the political scene; but some thought he would have to slow down when he became vice president.

But he took on so many tasks he needed three offices from which to operate—in the Capitol, in the New Senate Office Building and in the White House.

At 6 feet 3 and weighing close to 200 pounds, Johnson has always been supercharged with energy.

He has been called self-centered and considerate; a humanitarian and power-hungry; a shrewd opportunist and a political genius; tough and yet vulnerable; vain, friendly, sensitive, flamboyant.

Friends and others who watched him on his rise over the decades agreed that he was just flexible enough, or human enough, to have been all of those things at one time or another.

Johnson once said of himself: "I am a free man, an American, a United States senator, and a Democrat, in that order."

"I am also a liberal, a conservative, a Texan, a taxpayer, a rancher, a businessman, a consumer, a parent, a voter, and not as young as I used to be nor as old as I expect to be—and I am all those things in no fixed order."

DISBELIEF, THEN GRIEF

Reactions of Women in Japan

By VERA HIRSCHBERG
S&S Staff Writer

TOKYO—Shock, disbelief and grief were the first reactions of American women in Japan at the news of President Kennedy's assassination.

Mrs. Edwin O. Reischauer, wife of Lt. Gen. Preston, commander, U.S. Forces Japan and Fifth Air Force, said at the Sanno in Tokyo:

"This is the greatest shock we have ever had. I can hardly believe it. It is a great loss not only for America but for the whole world."

Mrs. Maurice R. Preston, wife of Lt. Gen. Preston, commander, U.S. Forces Japan and Fifth Air Force, said at the Sanno in Tokyo:

"My husband told me the President had been shot and I didn't believe it at first. I am still shocked and can say no more."

At the U.S. Army Japan WAC Detachment in Camp Zama near Tokyo, Capt. Virginia Heseman, detachment commander, received

the news from her first sergeant.

"I got the call early this morning. I am absolutely shocked. It is terrible and I find it hard to believe."

At her Grant Heights housing area home, Mrs. Raymond W. Swanson, wife of Capt. Swanson, 6100th Support Wing, heard the news on the Far East Network.

"To say the least I am shocked," she said. "I am appalled that something like this can happen in our nation in this day and time."

Margaret Brown, a secretary at Hq., Fifth Air Force, didn't know about the assassination until she was asked for her reaction.

"This is just awful. He is such a young man and someone we all admire. How horrible."

The wife of the Yokota AB Methodist Chaplain, Mrs. A. D. Cockburn said her husband had left the house early to play golf and had not yet heard the news. But she had.

"A friend of mine called at

7:50 a.m. and told me about it. I have been in a state of shock since. When my friend told me Kennedy was dead and shot in the head, I told her 'Oh yes'm Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and all that.' But when she



MRS. REISCHAUER

said 'No, Mary. It's true,' then I believed it. I told her to get down on her knees and pray for Lyndon B. Johnson."

Chaplain (Cdr.) Richard G. Hutcheson, senior Protestant Chaplain at U.S. Fleet Activities, Yokosuka said he had heard the news and was "terribly shocked about it." "It's terribly hard to believe. We are going to include memorial prayers in our services tomorrow."

Chaplain (Lt.) Leonard S. Cahlan, Jewish chaplain, staff, commander, U.S. Naval Forces Japan, had not yet heard the news. When informed by *Pacific Stars and Stripes*, he said after a long pause:

"The cause of brotherhood has been given a devastating blow. President Kennedy went far beyond the normal duties of his office in this respect. It's very ironic that in almost a century apart the two presidents who did the most to promote the emancipation of peoples in our country should meet similar fates."