

At 43, the Youngest to Be Elected President

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terest." He said the steel men had shown "utter contempt for their fellow citizens."

U.S. Steel finally had to back down after several major companies said they would hold the price line and Bethlehem Steel rescinded the price rise it announced following the U.S. Steel move.

Steel Backs Down

Blough and Kennedy met again. The meeting was called "useful and cordial." The President told a news conference "this Administration harbors no ill will against any individual, any industry, corporation or segment of the American economy."

Twice during his first two years in office Kennedy was forced to act against mob violence in the South where integration efforts were fought.

In the spring of 1961 Negro and white groups, calling themselves Freedom Riders, sought to break down bus station racial barriers and ran into violence in Alabama. There were incidents at Anniston, Birmingham and Montgomery, among others. The worst was at Montgomery.

President Kennedy's brother, Attorney General Robert Kennedy, ordered several hundred U.S. marshals to Montgomery. Gov. John Patterson declared "qualified martial rule" and sent National Guardsmen to Montgomery. The Guardsmen, with fixed bayonets, scattered a howling mob that tried to overwhelm federal marshals protecting a Negro church mass meeting.

'Ole Miss' Troops

Far worse rioting—two persons were killed—occurred Sept. 30, 1962 when Negro James H. Meredith sought to register at the all-white University of Mississippi in Oxford. He finally registered with the aid of U.S. marshals and federal troops but not before an awful nightmare of tear gas and buckshot, rifle bullets and flying bricks, screaming hordes of people gone wild, and blood and death.

When marshals finally escorted him to an apartment on the campus on Sunday, Sept. 30, an unruly mob of 2,500 students, townspeople and out-of-towners opened up with a barrage of rifle bullets, rocks, bottles and acid. The marshals fought back with tear gas. Meanwhile, Kennedy, who had made a fruitless appeal for order, dispatched federalized Mississippi National Guardsmen and troops to the college town.

The race to conquer space continued during Kennedy's first two years.

The Russians, who had pioneered in space exploration, had sent two men into space, one on a 17-orbit mission, before Marine Lt. Col. John H. Glenn boosted American morale by circling the earth three times.

When the Russians announced its successful twin orbits Kennedy commented: "I have said from the beginning that this country started late in the 1950s. We are now behind, and we will be behind for a period in the future."

But, he said, "we are making a major effort now, and this country will be heard from in space as well as in other areas in the coming months and years."

The 87th Congress

There were varied estimates on how the President fared with the 87th Congress which was controlled by his own Democratic party.

A coalition of conservative Democrats from the South and conservative Republicans from the North thwarted the President on some of his favorite measures.

By executive order President Kennedy set up a Peace Corps to aid underdeveloped nations and Congress appropriated money for its existence. The Corps, Kennedy said, would provide a pool of Americans—mostly young men

and women—to go overseas and "help foreign countries meet their urgent need for skilled manpower." He had proposed such a project during the presidential campaign.

It was on a freezing Jan. 20, 1961, that Kennedy was sworn in as President.

Inaugurated with Kennedy was Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson of Texas. They had served together in the Senate, where Kennedy spent eight years. Previously he had served six years in the House.

Kennedy at 43 was the youngest man ever elected president. He succeeded the oldest man

also a war hero and a successful author.

One grandfather, Patrick Joseph Kennedy, a saloonkeeper and Democratic ward leader in East Boston, served in both branches of the Massachusetts legislature.

The other, John F. (Honey Fitz) Fitzgerald, was mayor of Boston for two terms and a representative in Congress. He ran for the Senate in 1916, but was defeated by Henry Cabot Lodge, whose grandson and namesake Kennedy defeated in 1952 for re-election to the same office.

The younger Lodge, as Republican nominee for vice pres-

clearly established in the public consciousness.

Helped by Record

Kennedy's World War II record and his authorship of a best-selling book, "Profiles in Courage," added to his stature.

In 1940 he wrote "Why England Slept," an analysis of England's attitude before the start of the war. At that time he was only 23 years old.

When John Kennedy launched his Senate career, his father said he was "in complete disagreement" with him on foreign policy. "I couldn't possibly have a worse argument with anyone

the coconuts on the island's two trees. Then they swam to a larger island where there were plenty.

For three successive nights, Kennedy, once a backstroker on the Harvard swimming team, put on a lifebelt and swam far out to try to signal another PT boat. But none came into view.

On Thursday afternoon two friendly natives found the group. Kennedy scratched a note on a coconut shell and asked them to take it to his PT boat base at Rendova.

One of the natives dropped off at the island of Goniu where an Australian, Arthur Reginald Evans, was stationed as a member of the Australian Coast Watching Service that kept tabs on Japanese ship and plane movements. He delivered the note to Evans, who sent other natives to the island. They arrived on Saturday night and rescued Kennedy and his crew.

Cited for Bravery

Lt. Kennedy was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps medals and the Purple Heart.

One of his brothers, Joseph P. Jr., a Navy pilot, was killed in action in Europe in 1944.

For most of his adult years, Kennedy was plagued by back troubles.

These started with an injury he suffered while playing football during his sophomore year at Harvard. Then came a spinal injury in the South Pacific action. Kennedy underwent three operations, one so serious that he was administered the last rites of the Catholic Church.

An operation in 1945 was performed to relieve the pressure of nerve fibers on his spine.

In October, 1954, he decided on another operation. This time doctors performed a spinal fusion operation in which bones in the affected area were fused with the help of an inserted metal plate. An infection developed and Kennedy lay near death for a while. He spent eight months in convalescence but failed to recover completely.

Another operation was performed in 1955 to remove the metal plate, to which the infection apparently was related.

In the spring of 1961, President Kennedy strained his back when he tossed several spadefuls of dirt at a ceremonial tree planting in Ottawa, Canada.

Born in 1917

Born in Brookline, Mass., May 29, 1917, Kennedy received his bachelor of science degree cum laude from Harvard in 1940 and then studied at the London School of Economics.

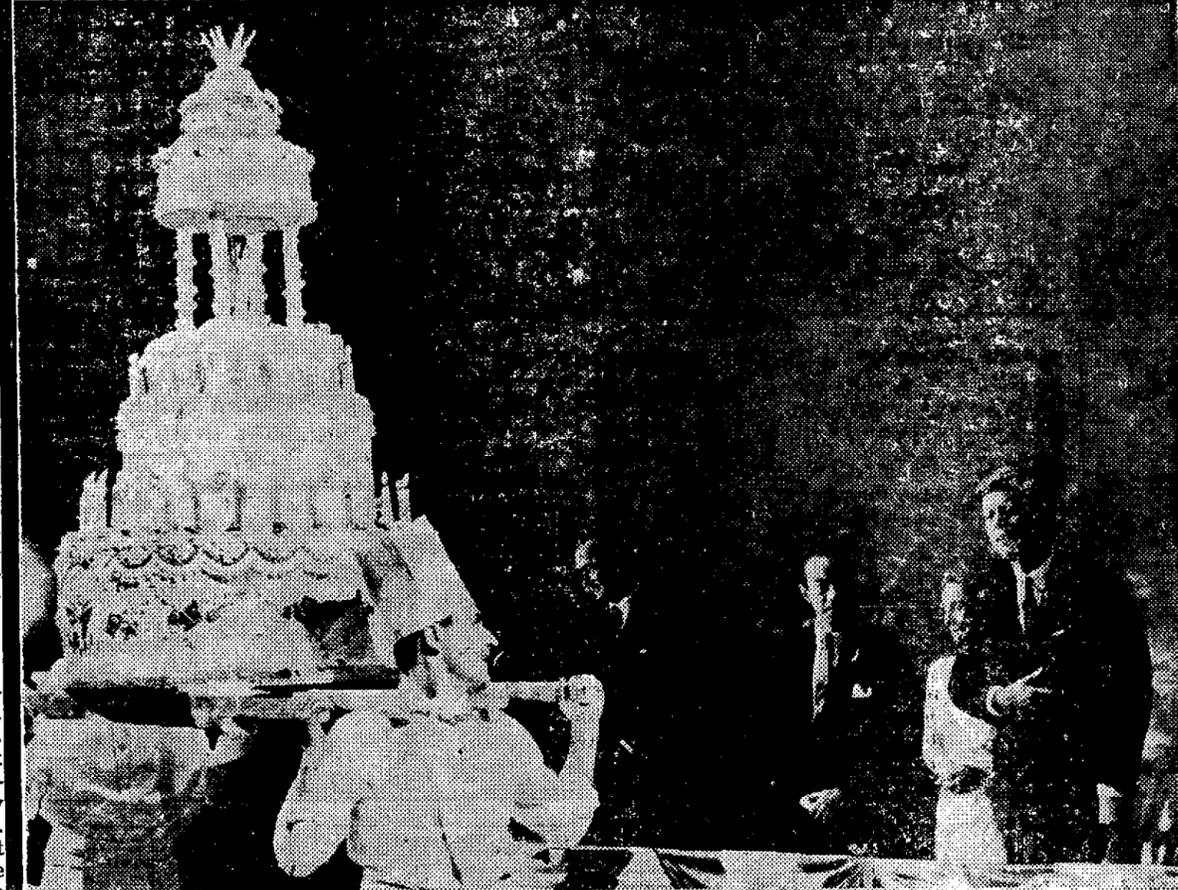
John Kennedy entered politics at the age of 29, when he was elected to Congress. That was in 1946.

After winning re-election twice to the House of Representatives, he ran for the Senate in 1952 and defeated Sen. Lodge.

He won by 70,000 votes despite the fact that Eisenhower, the Republican presidential candidate, swept normally Democratic Massachusetts by 210,000 in that GOP landslide year.

Kennedy's political stock was enhanced further when he won re-election in 1958 by the largest plurality ever piled up for a Senate seat in Massachusetts—almost 900,000.

In 1953 Kennedy and Miss Jacqueline Lee Bouvier were married in St. Mary's Catholic Church at Newport, R.I. Archbishop Richard J. Cushing of Boston officiated and read a special message of blessing from the Pope. A daughter, Caroline Bouvier, was born in 1957. Three years later there was a son, John F. Jr.



President Kennedy (right) watched apprehensively as a huge cake was carried out at Madison Square Garden in New York during a party honoring his 45th birthday in 1962. With Kennedy

were (from left) Vice-President Lyndon B. Johnson, New York Mayor Robert F. Wagner and Anna M. Rosenberg, a co-chairman of the party. (UPI Photo)

ever to hold that office, Dwight D. Eisenhower, who was past 70 when his term expired.

[While Theodore Roosevelt was about nine months younger than Kennedy upon becoming Chief Executive, he reached that office from the vice presidency as the result of William McKinley's assassination.]

The First Catholic

Kennedy also was the first Roman Catholic president.

In the 1960 campaign, religion was much discussed. The Republican nominee, Richard M. Nixon, was a Quaker. He disavowed religion as a campaign issue. But it remained a very live one.

Kennedy was elected with a comfortable electoral majority—303 to 219, with only 269 needed—but his popular vote margin was the narrowest in 76 years. This margin was 113,057 out of a total of 68,832,778 votes cast, about one-tenth of one per cent.

The total vote divided this way: Kennedy 31,221,531; Nixon 34,108,474; others (including minority parties) 502,773.

Actually the total voter turnout was about 225,000 higher than the vote for president. That number did not mark their ballots in the presidential column though voting for other offices.

Kennedy polled 50.1 per cent of the major party vote; Nixon 49.9. Of the total vote, Kennedy's percentage was 49.7; Nixon's 49.6 and others 0.7.

Hero and Author

Kennedy, descended on both sides from Irish immigrants of the mid-19th Century, had an inherited background of politics and a record of accomplishments in public affairs. He was

ident, opposed Kennedy again in the '60 election.

Kennedy's father, Joseph P. Kennedy, who amassed a fortune that a 1957 survey placed in the \$200 to \$400 million category, served as chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission and of the Maritime Commission, and later as U.S. ambassador to the Court of St. James.

Discussed Religion

Kennedy was not afraid of the religious issue. He appeared before a meeting of the Greater Houston Ministerial Assn. and told several hundred Protestant ministers he firmly believed in a complete separation of church and state.

Kennedy told the ministers: "If the time should ever come—and I do not concede any conflicts will be even remotely possible—when my office would require me to either violate my conscience or violate the national interest, then I would resign the office. . . ."

Kennedy stressed several themes—that American prestige abroad had slipped dangerously, that the nation's margin of military superiority was narrowing, that its economic growth at home and its image abroad needed revitalizing.

And he emphasized what he termed the need for a dynamic America, "an America on the move again." He talked of new frontiers.

His cause was helped considerably by appearances on television in a series of four "great debates" with his Republican rival, who until that time had been much more