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—
Kennedy

PN6

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 25, 1985

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT JFK MEMORIAL LIBRARY FUNDRAISER

June 24, 1985

The Residence of Senator Edward M. Kennedy
McLean, Virginia

THE PRESIDENT: I was very pleased a few months ago when Caroline and John came to see me and to ask for our support in helping the library. I thought afterwards what fine young people they are and what a fine testament they are to their mother and father.

It was obvious to me that they care deeply about their father and his memory. But I was also struck by how much they care about history. They felt strongly that all of us must take care to preserve it, protect it and hand it down for future sailors on the sea of scholarship.

They're right, of course. History has its claims and there's nothing so invigorating as the truth. In this case, a good deal of truth resides in a strikingly-sculpted library that contains the accumulated documents, recollections, diaries and oral histories of the New Frontier. But I must confess that ever since Caroline and John came by, I've found myself thinking not so much about the John F. Kennedy Library as about the man himself and what his life meant to our country and our times, particularly to the history of this century.

It always seemed to me that he was a man of the most interesting contradictions, very American contradictions. We know from his many friends and colleagues, we know in part from the testimony available at the library, that he was self-deprecating yet proud, ironic yet easily moved, highly literary yet utterly at home with the common speech of the ordinary man. He was a writer who could expound with ease on the moral forces that shaped John Calhoun's political philosophy. On the other hand, he possessed a most delicate and refined appreciation for Boston's political wards and the characters who inhabited it. He could cuss a blue streak -- but then, he'd been a sailor.

He loved history, and approached it as both romantic and realist. He could quote Stephen Vincent Benet on General Lee's Army: "The aide de camp knew certain lines of Greek and other such unnecessary things that are good for peace, but are not deemed so serviceable for war -- "

And he could sum up a current "statesman" with an earthy epithet that would leave his audience weak with laughter. One sensed that he loved mankind as it was, in spite of itself, and that he had little patience with those who would perfect what was not really meant to be perfect.

As a leader, as a President, he seemed to have a good, hard, un-illusioned understanding of man and his political choices. He had written a book as a very young man about why the world slept as Hitler marched on. And he understood the tension between good and evil in the history of man, understood, indeed, that much of the history of man can be seen in the constant working out of that tension. He knew that the United States had adversaries, real adversaries, and they weren't about to be put off by soft reason and good intentions. He wanted -- Well, he tried always to be strong

MORE

with them and shrewd. He wanted our defense system to be unsurpassed. He cared that his country could be safe.

He was a patriot who summoned patriotism from the heart of a sated country. It is a matter of pride to me that so many men and women who were inspired by his bracing vision and moved by his call to "ask not --," serve now in the White House doing the business of government.

Which is not to say I supported John Kennedy when he ran for President. I didn't. I was for the other fellow. But, you know, it's true, when the battle's over and the ground is cooled, well, it's then that you see the opposing general's valor.

He would have understood. He was fiercely, happily partisan. And his political fights were tough -- no quarter asked, none given. But he gave as good as he got. And you could see that he loved the battle.

Everything we saw him do seemed to betray a huge enjoyment of life. He seemed to grasp from the beginning that life is one fast-moving train, and you have to jump aboard and hold on to your hat and relish the sweep of the wind as it rushes by. You have to enjoy the journey. It's unthankful not to.

I think that's how his country remembers him, in his joy. And it was a joy he knew how to communicate. He knew that life is rich with possibilities, and he believed in opportunity, growth and action.

And when he died, when that comet disappeared over the continent, a whole nation grieved and would not forget. A tailor in New York put up a sign on the door: "Closed because of a death in the family." The sadness was not confined to us. "They cried the rain down that night," said a journalist in Europe. They put his picture up in huts in Brazil and tents in the Congo, in offices in Dublin and Warsaw. That was some of what he did for his country, for when they honored him they were honoring someone essentially -- quintessentially, completely American. When they honored John Kennedy, they honored the nation whose virtues, genius and contradictions he so fully reflected.

Many men are great, but few capture the imagination and the spirit of the times. The ones who do are unforgettable. Four administrations have passed since John Kennedy's death. Five Presidents have occupied the Oval Office, and I feel sure that each of them thought of John Kennedy now and then, and his thousand days in the White House.

And sometimes I want to say to those who are still in school, and who sometimes think that history is a dry thing that lives in a book: Nothing is ever lost in that great house; some music plays on.

I've even been told that late at night when the clouds are still and the moon is high, you can just about hear the sound of certain memories brushing by. You can almost hear, if you listen close, the whirr of a wheelchair rolling by and the sound of a voice calling out, "And another thing, Eleanor!" Turn down a hall and you hear the brisk strut of a fellow saying, "Bully! Absolutely ripping!" Walk softly now and you're drawn to the soft notes of a piano and a brilliant gathering in the East Room, where a crowd surrounds a bright young President who is full of hope and laughter.

I don't know if this is true, but it's a story I've been told. And it's not a bad one, because it reminds us that history is a living thing that never dies. A life given in service to one's country is a living thing that never dies. A life given in service, yes.

History is not only made by people, it is people. And so, history is, as young John Kennedy demonstrated, as heroic as you want it to be, as heroic as you are.

And that's where I'll end my remarks on this lovely evening, except to add that I know the John F. Kennedy Library is the only Presidential Library without a full endowment. Nancy and I salute you, Caroline and John, in your efforts to permanently endow the library. You have our support and admiration for what you are doing.

Thank you and God bless you all. (Applause.)

END

(NOONAN)

JUNE 24, 1985

FUNDRAISER FOR J.F.K. MEMORIAL LIBRARY
MCLEAN, VIRGINIA

THANK YOU, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

I WAS VERY PLEASED A FEW MONTHS AGO WHEN CAROLINE AND JOHN CAME TO SEE ME AND TO ASK FOR OUR SUPPORT IN HELPING THE LIBRARY. I THOUGHT AFTERWARDS WHAT FINE YOUNG PEOPLE THEY ARE AND WHAT A FINE TESTAMENT THEY ARE TO THEIR MOTHER AND FATHER. IT WAS OBVIOUS TO ME THAT THEY CARE DEEPLY ABOUT THEIR FATHER AND HIS MEMORY -- BUT I WAS ALSO STRUCK BY HOW MUCH THEY CARE ABOUT HISTORY. THEY FELT STRONGLY THAT ALL OF US MUST TAKE CARE TO PRESERVE IT, PROTECT IT, AND HAND IT DOWN FOR FUTURE SAILORS ON THE SEA OF SCHOLARSHIP.

THEY'RE RIGHT, OF COURSE. HISTORY HAS ITS CLAIMS, AND THERE'S NOTHING SO INVIGORATING AS THE TRUTH.

IN THIS CASE, A GOOD DEAL OF TRUTH RESIDES IN A STRIKINGLY SCULPTED LIBRARY THAT CONTAINS THE ACCUMULATED DOCUMENTS, RECOLLECTIONS, DIARIES, AND ORAL HISTORIES OF THE NEW FRONTIER.

BUT I MUST CONFESS THAT EVER SINCE CAROLINE AND JOHN CAME BY I HAVE FOUND MYSELF THINKING NOT SO MUCH ABOUT THE JOHN F. KENNEDY LIBRARY AS ABOUT THE MAN HIMSELF, AND WHAT HIS LIFE MEANT TO OUR COUNTRY AND OUR TIMES, PARTICULARLY TO THE HISTORY OF THIS CENTURY.

IT ALWAYS SEEMED TO ME THAT HE WAS A MAN OF THE MOST INTERESTING CONTRADICTIONS, VERY AMERICAN CONTRADICTIONS. WE KNOW FROM HIS MANY FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES -- WE KNOW IN PART FROM THE TESTIMONY AVAILABLE AT THE LIBRARY -- THAT HE WAS SELF-DEPRECATING YET PROUD, IRONIC YET EASILY MOVED, HIGHLY LITERARY YET UTTERLY AT HOME WITH THE COMMON SPEECH OF THE ORDINARY MAN.

HE WAS A WRITER WHO COULD EXPOUND WITH EASE ON THE MORAL FORCES THAT SHAPED JOHN CALHOUN'S POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY; ON THE OTHER HAND, HE POSSESSED A MOST DELICATE AND REFINED APPRECIATION FOR BOSTON'S POLITICAL WARDS AND THE CHARACTERS WHO INHABITED IT. HE COULD CUSS A BLUE STREAK -- BUT THEN, HE'D BEEN A SAILOR.

HE LOVED HISTORY AND APPROACHED IT AS BOTH ROMANTIC AND REALIST. HE COULD QUOTE STEPHEN VINCENT BENET ON GENERAL LEE'S ARMY --

"THE AIDE DE CAMP KNEW CERTAIN LINES OF
GREEK/
AND OTHER SUCH UNNECESSARY THINGS/
THAT ARE GOOD FOR PEACE/
BUT ARE NOT DEEMED SO SERVICEABLE FOR
WAR..."

AND HE COULD SUM UP A CURRENT "STATESMAN"
WITH AN EARTHY EPITHET THAT WOULD LEAVE HIS
AUDIENCE WEAK WITH LAUGHTER.

ONE SENSED THAT HE LOVED MANKIND AS IT WAS, IN SPITE OF ITSELF, AND THAT HE HAD LITTLE PATIENCE WITH THOSE WHO WOULD PERFECT WHAT WAS REALLY NOT MEANT TO BE PERFECT.

AS A LEADER, AS A PRESIDENT, HE SEEMED TO HAVE A GOOD, HARD, UN-ILLUSIONED UNDERSTANDING OF MAN AND HIS POLITICAL CHOICES. HE HAD WRITTEN A BOOK AS A VERY YOUNG MAN ABOUT WHY THE WORLD SLEPT AS HITLER MARCHED ON; AND HE UNDERSTOOD THE TENSION BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL IN THE HISTORY OF MAN -- UNDERSTOOD, INDEED, THAT MUCH OF THE HISTORY OF MAN CAN BE SEEN IN THE CONSTANT WORKING OUT OF THAT TENSION. HE KNEW THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD ADVERSARIES, REAL ADVERSARIES, AND THEY WEREN'T ABOUT TO BE PUT OFF BY SOFT REASON AND GOOD INTENTIONS. HE TRIED ALWAYS TO BE STRONG WITH THEM, AND SHREWD. HE WANTED OUR DEFENSE SYSTEM TO BE UNSURPASSED; HE CARED THAT HIS COUNTRY WOULD BE SAFE.

HE WAS A PATRIOT WHO SUMMONED
PATRIOTISM FROM THE HEART OF A SATED
COUNTRY. IT IS A MATTER OF PRIDE TO ME THAT
SO MANY MEN AND WOMEN WHO WERE INSPIRED BY
HIS BRACING VISION AND MOVED BY HIS CALL TO
"ASK NOT....," SERVE NOW IN THE WHITE HOUSE
DOING THE BUSINESS OF GOVERNMENT.

WHICH IS NOT TO SAY I SUPPORTED JOHN
KENNEDY WHEN HE RAN FOR PRESIDENT,
BECAUSE I DIDN'T. I WAS FOR THE OTHER
FELLOW. BUT YOU KNOW, IT'S TRUE: WHEN THE
BATTLE'S OVER AND THE GROUND IS COOLED,
WELL, IT'S THEN THAT YOU SEE THE OPPOSING
GENERAL'S VALOR.

HE WOULD HAVE UNDERSTOOD. HE WAS
FIERCELY, HAPPILY PARTISAN, AND HIS
POLITICAL FIGHTS WERE TOUGH -- NO QUARTER
ASKED AND NONE GIVEN. BUT HE GAVE AS GOOD
AS HE GOT, AND YOU COULD SEE THAT HE LOVED
THE BATTLE.

EVERYTHING WE SAW HIM DO SEEMED TO BETRAY A HUGE ENJOYMENT OF LIFE; HE SEEMED TO GRASP FROM THE BEGINNING THAT LIFE IS ONE FAST-MOVING TRAIN, AND YOU HAVE TO JUMP ABOARD AND HOLD ON TO YOUR HAT AND RELISH THE SWEEP OF THE WIND AS IT RUSHES BY. YOU HAVE TO ENJOY THE JOURNEY, IT'S UNTHANKFUL NOT TO. I THINK THAT'S HOW HIS COUNTRY REMEMBERS HIM, IN HIS JOY. AND IT WAS A JOY HE KNEW HOW TO COMMUNICATE. HE KNEW THAT LIFE IS RICH WITH POSSIBILITIES, AND HE BELIEVED IN OPPORTUNITY, GROWTH, AND ACTION.

AND WHEN HE DIED, WHEN THAT COMET DISAPPEARED OVER THE CONTINENT, A WHOLE NATION GRIEVED AND WOULD NOT FORGET. A TAILOR IN NEW YORK PUT UP A SIGN ON THE DOOR -- "CLOSED BECAUSE OF A DEATH IN THE FAMILY." THE SADNESS WAS NOT CONFINED TO US. "THEY CRIED THE RAIN DOWN THAT NIGHT," SAID A JOURNALIST IN EUROPE.

THEY PUT HIS PICTURE UP IN HUTS IN BRAZIL
AND TENTS IN THE CONGO, IN OFFICES IN DUBLIN
AND WARSAW. THAT WAS SOME OF WHAT HE DID
FOR HIS COUNTRY, FOR WHEN THEY HONORED HIM
THEY WERE HONORING SOMEONE ESSENTIALLY,
QUINTESENTIALLY, COMPLETELY AMERICAN.
WHEN THEY HONORED JOHN KENNEDY THEY HONORED
THE NATION WHOSE VIRTUES, GENIUS --
AND CONTRADICTIONS -- HE SO FULLY REFLECTED.

MANY MEN ARE GREAT, BUT FEW CAPTURE THE
IMAGINATION AND THE SPIRIT OF THE TIMES.
THE ONES WHO DO ARE UNFORGETTABLE.
FOUR ADMINISTRATIONS HAVE PASSED SINCE
JOHN KENNEDY'S DEATH, FIVE PRESIDENTS HAVE
OCCUPIED THE OVAL OFFICE, AND I FEEL SURE
THAT EACH OF THEM THOUGHT OF JOHN KENNEDY
NOW AND THEN, AND HIS THOUSAND DAYS IN THE
WHITE HOUSE.

AND SOMETIMES I WANT TO SAY TO THOSE WHO ARE STILL IN SCHOOL, AND WHO SOMETIMES THINK THAT HISTORY IS A DRY THING THAT LIVES IN A BOOK: NOTHING IS EVER LOST IN THAT GREAT HOUSE; SOME MUSIC PLAYS ON.

I HAVE EVEN BEEN TOLD THAT LATE AT NIGHT WHEN THE CLOUDS ARE STILL AND THE MOON IS HIGH, YOU CAN JUST ABOUT HEAR THE SOUND OF CERTAIN MEMORIES BRUSHING BY. YOU CAN ALMOST HEAR, IF YOU LISTEN CLOSE, THE WHIRR OF A WHEELCHAIR ROLLING BY AND THE SOUND OF A VOICE CALLING OUT, "AND ANOTHER THING, ELEANOR!" TURN DOWN A HALL AND YOU HEAR THE BRISK STRUT OF A FELLOW SAYING, "BULLY! ABSOLUTELY RIPPING!" WALK SOFTLY NOW AND YOU'RE DRAWN TO THE SOFT NOTES OF A PIANO AND A BRILLIANT GATHERING IN THE EAST ROOM, WHERE A CROWD SURROUNDS A BRIGHT YOUNG PRESIDENT WHO IS FULL OF HOPE AND LAUGHTER.

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I DON'T KNOW IF THIS IS TRUE...
BUT IT'S A STORY I'VE BEEN TOLD. AND IT'S
NOT A BAD ONE, BECAUSE IT REMINDS US THAT
HISTORY IS A LIVING THING THAT NEVER DIES.
A LIFE GIVEN IN SERVICE TO ONE'S COUNTRY IS
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HISTORY IS NOT ONLY MADE BY PEOPLE,
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JOHN KENNEDY DEMONSTRATED, AS HEROIC AS YOU
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AND THAT IS WHERE I WILL END MY REMARKS
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ONLY PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY WITHOUT A FULL
ENDOWMENT. NANCY AND I SALUTE YOU,
CAROLINE AND JOHN, IN YOUR EFFORTS TO
PERMANENTLY ENDOW THE LIBRARY. YOU HAVE OUR
SUPPORT AND ADMIRATION FOR WHAT YOU ARE
DOING.

THANK YOU, AND BLESS YOU ALL.

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Kim - This is
my final edited
copy. Call me
Monday a.m. if
any problem.

(Noonan/BE)
June 20, 1985
4:00 p.m.

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PN Δ'S

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: FUNDRAISER FOR J.F.K. MEMORIAL LIBRARY
McLEAN, VIRGINIA
MONDAY, JUNE 24, 1985

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen.

I was very pleased a few months ago when Caroline and John came to see me and to ask for our support in helping the Library. I thought afterwards what fine young people they are and what a fine testament they are to their mother and father. It was obvious to me that they care deeply about their father and his memory -- but I was also struck by how much they care about history. They felt strongly that all of us must take care to preserve it, protect it, and hand it down for future sailors on the sea of scholarship.

They're right, of course. History has its claims, and there's nothing so invigorating as the truth. In this case, a good deal of truth resides in a strikingly sculpted Library that contains the accumulated documents, recollections, diaries, and oral histories of the New Frontier.

But I must confess that ever since Caroline and John came by I have found myself thinking not so much about the John F. Kennedy Library as about the man himself, and what his life meant to our country and our times, particularly to the history of this century.

It always seemed to me that he was a man of the most interesting contradictions, very American contradictions. We know from his many friends and colleagues -- we know in part from the testimony available at the Library -- that he was

self-deprecating yet proud, ironic yet easily moved, highly literary yet utterly at home with the common speech of the ~~working~~ ^{ordinary} man. He was a writer who could expound with ease on the moral forces that shaped John Calhoun's political philosophy; on the other hand, he possessed a most delicate and refined appreciation for Boston's political wards and the characters who inhabited it. He could cuss a blue streak -- but then, he'd been a sailor.

He loved history and approached it as both romantic and realist. He could quote Steven ^{phen} Vincent Benet on General Lee's Army -- "the aide de camp knew certain lines of Greek/ and other things/ ~~quite fitting~~ ^{that are good} for peace/ but ^{are deemed so serviceable} ~~not so suitable~~ for war..." And he could sum up a current "statesman" with an earthy epithet that would leave his audience weak with laughter. One sensed that he loved mankind as it was, in spite of itself, and that he had little patience with those who would perfect what was really not meant to be perfect.

As a leader, as a President, he seemed to have a good, hard, un-illusioned understanding of man and his political choices. He had written a book as a very young man about why the world slept as Hitler marched on; and he understood the tension between good and evil in the history of man -- understood, indeed, that much of the history of man can be seen in the constant working out of that tension. He knew that the United States had adversaries, real adversaries, and they weren't about to be put off by soft reason and good intentions. He tried always to be strong with

them, and shrewd. He wanted our defense system to be unsurpassed; he cared that his country would be safe.

He was a patriot who summoned patriotism from the heart of a sated country. It is a matter of pride to me that so many men and women who were inspired by his bracing vision and moved by his call to "Ask not...", serve now in the White House doing the business of government.

Which is not to say I supported John Kennedy when he ran for President, because I didn't. I was for the other fellow. But you know, it's true: when the battle's over and the ground is cooled, well, it's then that you see the opposing general's valor.

He would have understood. He was fiercely, happily partisan, and his political fights were tough -- no quarter asked and none given. But he gave as good as he got, and you could see that he loved the battle.

Everything we saw him do seemed to betray a huge enjoyment of life; he seemed to grasp from the beginning that life is one fast-moving train, and you have to jump aboard and hold on to your hat and relish the sweep of the wind as it rushes by. You have to enjoy the journey, it's unthankful not to. I think that's how his country remembers him, in his joy. And it was a joy he knew how to communicate. He knew that life is rich with possibilities, and he believed in opportunity, growth, and action.

And when he died, when that comet disappeared over the continent, a whole Nation grieved and would not forget. A tailor

in New York put up a sign on the door -- "Closed because of a death in the family." The sadness was not confined to us. "They cried the rain down that night," said a journalist in Europe. They put his picture up in huts in Brazil and tents in the Congo, in offices in Dublin and ^{Warsaw.} ~~Danzig.~~ That was some of what he did for his country, for when they honored him they were honoring someone essentially, quintessentially, completely American. When they honored John Kennedy they honored the Nation whose virtues, genius -- and contradictions -- he so fully reflected.

Many men are great, but few capture the imagination and the spirit of the times. The ones who do are unforgettable. Four administrations have passed since John Kennedy's death, five Presidents have occupied the Oval Office, and I feel sure that each of them thought of John Kennedy now and then, and his thousand days in the White House.

And sometimes I want to say to those who are still in school, and who sometimes think that history is a dry thing that lives in a book: nothing is ever lost in that great house; some music plays on.

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where a crowd surrounds a bright young President who is full of hope and laughter.

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And that is where I will end my remarks on this lovely evening, except to add that I know the John F. Kennedy Library is the only Presidential Library without a full endowment. Nancy and I salute you, Caroline and John, in your efforts to permanently endow the library. You have our support and admiration for what you are doing.

Thank you, and bless you all.

(Noonan/BE)
June 20, 1985
4:00 p.m.

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ck pg 4

Document No. _____

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 6/20/85 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: NA

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: FUNDRAISER FOR JFK MEMORIAL LIBRARY
(6/20, 4:00 p.m. draft)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	LACY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
REGAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	McFARLANE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
STOCKMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	OGLESBY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BUCHANAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROLLINS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CHAVEZ	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	RYAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CHEW	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SPEAKES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DANIELS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SPRINKEL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FIELDING	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SVAHN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FRIEDERSDORF	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	TUTTLE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HENKEL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ELLIOTT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HICKEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HICKS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
KINGON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

The attached is being forwarded to the President.

RESPONSE:

David L. Chew
Staff Secretary
Ext. 2702

Received SS
JUN 20 PM 5:08

(Noonan/BE)
June 20, 1985
4:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: FUNDRAISER FOR J.F.K. MEMORIAL LIBRARY
McLEAN, VIRGINIA
MONDAY, JUNE 24, 1985

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen.

I was very pleased a few months ago when Caroline and John came to see me and to ask for our support in helping the Library. I thought afterwards what fine young people they are and what a fine testament they are to their mother and father. It was obvious to me that they care deeply about their father and his memory -- but I was also struck by how much they care about history. They felt strongly that all of us must take care to preserve it, protect it, and hand it down for future sailors on the sea of scholarship.

They're right, of course. History has its claims, and there's nothing so invigorating as the truth. In this case, a good deal of truth resides in a strikingly sculpted Library that contains the accumulated documents, recollections, diaries, and oral histories of the New Frontier.

But I must confess that ever since Caroline and John came by I have found myself thinking not so much about the John F. Kennedy Library as about the man himself, and what his life meant to our country and our times, particularly to the history of this century.

It always seemed to me that he was a man of the most interesting contradictions, very American contradictions. We know from his many friends and colleagues -- we know in part from the testimony available at the Library -- that he was

self-deprecating yet proud, ironic yet easily moved, highly literary yet utterly at home with the common speech of the ~~ordinary~~ ^{ordinary} working man. He was a writer who could expound with ease on the moral forces that shaped John Calhoun's political philosophy; on the other hand, he possessed a most delicate and refined appreciation for Boston's political wards and the characters who inhabited it. He could cuss a blue streak -- but then, he'd been a sailor.

He loved history and approached it as both romantic and realist. He could quote Steven Vincent Benet on General Lee's Army -- "the aide de camp knew certain lines of Greek/ and other things quite fitting for peace but not so suitable for war..." And he could sum up a current "statesman" with an earthy epithet that would leave his audience weak with laughter. One sensed that he loved mankind as it was, in spite of itself, and that he had little patience with those who would perfect what was really not meant to be perfect.

As a leader, as a President, he seemed to have a good, hard, un-illusioned understanding of man and his political choices. He had written a book as a very young man about why the world slept as Hitler marched on; and he understood the tension between good and evil in the history of man -- understood, indeed, that much of the history of man can be seen in the constant working out of that tension. He knew that the United States had adversaries, real adversaries, and they weren't about to be put off by soft reason and good intentions. He tried always to be strong with

them, and shrewd. He wanted our defense system to be unsurpassed; he cared that his country would be safe.

He was a patriot who summoned patriotism from the heart of a sated country. It is a matter of pride to me that so many men and women who were inspired by his bracing vision and moved by his call to "Ask not...", serve now in the White House doing the business of government.

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He would have understood. He was fiercely, happily partisan, and his political fights were tough -- no quarter asked and none given. But he gave as good as he got, and you could see that he loved the battle.

Everything we saw him do seemed to betray a huge enjoyment of life; he seemed to grasp from the beginning that life is one fast-moving train, and you have to jump aboard and hold on to your hat and relish the sweep of the wind as it rushes by. You have to enjoy the journey, it's unthankful not to. I think that's how his country remembers him, in his joy. And it was a joy he knew how to communicate. He knew that life is rich with possibilities, and he believed in opportunity, growth, and action.

And when he died, when that comet disappeared over the continent, a whole Nation grieved and would not forget. A tailor

in New York put up a sign on the door -- "Closed because of a death in the family." The sadness was not confined to us. "They cried the rain down that night," said a journalist in Europe. They put his picture up in huts in Brazil and tents in the Congo, in offices in Dublin and Danzig. That was some of what he did for his country, for when they honored him they were honoring someone essentially, quintessentially, completely American. When they honored John Kennedy they honored the Nation whose virtues, genius -- and contradictions -- he so fully reflected.

Many men are great, but few capture the imagination and the spirit of the times. The ones who do are unforgettable. Four administrations have passed since John Kennedy's death, five Presidents have occupied the Oval Office, and I feel sure that each of them thought of John Kennedy now and then, and his thousand days in the White House.

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CK pg 1

(Noonan/BE)
June 20, 1985
4:00 p.m. ER

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(Noonan/BE)

June 19, 1985

5:00 p.m. SS

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^{(B) P}
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Thank you, and bless you all.

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 6/19/85 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: Thurs., 6/20, NOON

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: FUNDRAISER FOR JFK MEMORIAL LIBRARY
(5:00 pm, June 19 draft)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	LACY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
REGAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	McFARLANE <i>att'd</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
STOCKMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	OGLESBY <i>none</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BUCHANAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROLLINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CHAVEZ <i>att'd</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	RYAN <i>att'd</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CHEW	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SPEAKES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DANIELS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SPRINKEL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FIELDING <i>att'd</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SVAHN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FRIEDERSDORF <i>none</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	TUTTLE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HENKEL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>ELLIOTT</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HICKEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HICKS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
KINGON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please submit your comments directly to Ben Elliott with an information copy to me. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

free - none

(Noonan/BE)
June 19, 1985
5:00 p.m.

Received SS

1985 JUN 19 PM 5:04
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Comment called in by phone
 1:00p 6-20
 JFK Speech

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~~a sailor.~~ Delete - Karna Small, NSC X

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1985

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	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	LACY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
REGAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	McFARLANE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
STOCKMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	OGLESBY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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CHAVEZ	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	RYAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CHEW	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SPEAKES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DANIELS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SPRINKEL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FIELDING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SVAHN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FRIEDERSDORF	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	TUTTLE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HENKEL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>ELLIOTT</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HICKEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HICKS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
KINGON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:
Please submit your comments directly to Ben Elliott with an information copy to me. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

David L. Chew
Staff Secretary
Ext. 2702

(Noonan/BE)
June 19, 1985
5:00 p.m.

Received SS

1985 JUN 19 PM 5:04
PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: FUNDRAISER FOR J.F.K. MEMORIAL LIBRARY
McLEAN, VIRGINIA
MONDAY, JUNE 24, 1985

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen.

I was very pleased a few months ago when Caroline and John came to see me and to ask for our support in helping the Library. I thought afterwards what fine young people they are and what a fine testament they are to their mother and father. It was obvious to me that they care deeply about their father and his memory -- but I was also struck by how much they care about history. They felt strongly that all of us must take care to preserve it, protect it, and hand it down for future sailors on the sea of scholarship.

They're right, of course. History has its claims, and there's nothing so bracing as the truth. In this case, much of the truth resides in a strikingly sculpted Library that contains the accumulated documents, recollections, diaries, and oral histories of the New Frontier.

But I must confess that ever since Caroline and John came by I have found myself thinking not so much about the John F. Kennedy Library as about the man himself, and what his life meant to our country and our times, particularly to the history of this century.

It always seemed to me that he was a man of the most interesting contradictions, very American contradictions. We know from his many friends and colleagues -- we know in part from the testimony available at the Library -- that he was both

self-deprecating and proud, ironic and easily moved, highly literary yet utterly at home with the common speech of the working man. He was a writer who could expound with ease on the moral forces that shaped John Calhoun's political philosophy; on the other hand, he betrayed a most delicate and refined appreciation for Boston's political wards and the characters who inhabited it. He could cuss a blue streak -- but then, he'd been a sailor.

He loved history and approached it as both romantic and realist. He could quote Steven Vincent Benet on General Lee's Army -- "the aide de camp knew certain lines of Greek/ and other things quite fitting for peace but not so suitable for war..." And he could sum up a current "statesman" with an earthy epithet that would leave his audience weak with laughter. One sensed that he loved mankind as it was, in spite of itself, and that he had little patience with those who would perfect what was really not meant to be perfect.

As a leader, as a President, he seemed to have a good, hard, un-illusioned understanding of man and his political choices. He had written a book as a very young man about why the world slept as Hitler marched on; and he understood the tension between good and evil in the history of man -- understood, indeed, that much of the history of man can be seen in the constant working out of that tension. He knew that the United States had adversaries, real adversaries, and they weren't about to be put off by soft reason and good intentions. He tried to be strong with them, and

shrewd. He wanted our defense system to be unsurpassed; he cared that his country would be safe.

He was a patriot who summoned patriotism from the heart of a sated country. It is a matter of pride to me that so many young men and women who were inspired by his bracing vision and moved by his call to "Ask not...", serve now in the White House doing the business of government.

Which is not to say I supported John Kennedy when he ran for President, because I didn't. I was for the other fellow. But you know, it's true: when the battle's over and the ground is cooled, well, it's then that you see the opposing general's valor.

He would have understood. He was fiercely, happily partisan, and his political fights were tough -- no quarter asked and none given. But he gave as good as he got, and you could see that he loved the battle.

Everything we saw him do seemed to show a huge enjoyment of life; he seemed to grasp from the beginning that life is one fast-moving train, and you have to jump aboard and hold on to your hat and relish the sweep of the wind as it rushes by. You have to enjoy the journey, it's unthankful not to. I think that's how his country remembers him, in his joy.

And when he died, when that comet disappeared over the continent, a whole Nation grieved and would not forget. A tailor in New York put up a sign on the door -- "Closed due to a death in the family." The sadness was not confined to us. "They cried the rain down that night," said a journalist in Europe. They put

his picture up in huts in Brazil and tents in the Congo, in offices in Dublin and Danzig. That was some of what he did for his country, for when they honored him they were honoring someone essentially, quintessentially, completely American. When they honored John Kennedy they honored the Nation whose virtues, genius -- and contradictions -- he so fully reflected.

Many men are great, but few capture the imagination and the spirit of the times. The ones who do are unforgettable. Four administrations have passed since John Kennedy's death, five Presidents have occupied the Oval Office, and I feel sure that each of them ^{had many thoughtful moments} ~~thought~~ of John Kennedy, ~~now and then~~, and his thousand days in the White House.

And may I say to some of the young people here who may sometimes think that history is a dry thing that lives in a book: nothing is ever lost in that great house; some music plays on.

I have even been told that late at night when the clouds are still and the Moon is high, you can just about hear the sound of certain memories brushing by. You can almost hear, if you listen close, the whirr of a wheelchair rolling by and the sound of a voice calling out, "And another thing, Eleanor!" Turn down a hall and you hear the brisk strut of a fellow saying, "Bully! Absolutely ripping!" Walk softly now and you're drawn to the soft notes of a piano and a brilliant gathering in the East Room, where a crowd surrounds a bright young President who is full of hope and laughter.

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is a living thing that never dies. A life given in service to one's country is a living thing that never dies.

History is not only made by people, it is people. And so, history is, as young John Kennedy demonstrated, as heroic as you want it to be -- as heroic as you are.

~~And that is all I have to say on this lovely evening except to add that Nancy and I brought along a personal check as a personal contribution to the only presidential library that accepts no national endowment. Caroline and John, this is for the John F. Kennedy Library. Long may it flourish.~~

Thank you, and bless you all.

Caroline, John I know that the John F Kennedy ^{library} is the only presidential library without an endowment. I salute you for your efforts to permanently endow the library and want you to know you have my support and admiration for what you are doing.

[If the President decides he wants to make a personal contribution, it should be done in private.]

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 6/19/85 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: Thurs., 6/20, NOON

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: FUNDRAISER FOR JFK MEMORIAL LIBRARY
 (5:00 pm, June 19 draft)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	LACY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
REGAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	McFARLANE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
STOCKMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	OGLESBY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BUCHANAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROLLINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CHAVEZ	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	RYAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CHEW	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SPEAKES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DANIELS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SPRINKEL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FIELDING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SVAHN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FRIEDERSDORF	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	TUTTLE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HENKEL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ELLIOTT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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HICKS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
KINGON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please submit your comments directly to Ben Elliott with an information copy to me. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

Very moving...
 W. Rogers

David L. Chew
 Staff Secretary
 Ext. 2702

JUN 19 1985

Document No. _____

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DATE: 6/19/85 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: Thurs., 6/20, NOON

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BUCHANAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROLLINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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CHEW	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SPEAKES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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HICKS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
KINGON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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RESPONSE:

(1) Not self-deprecating - use self-effacing or self-deprecating page 2

(2) Too many references to Kennedy's cursor.

David L. Chew
Staff Secretary
Ext. 2702

(Noonan/BE)
June 19, 1985
5:00 p.m.

Received SS

1985 JUN 19 PM 5:04
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And that is all I have to say on this lovely evening except to add that Nancy and I brought along a personal check as a personal contribution to the only presidential library that accepts no national endowment. Caroline and John, this is for the John F. Kennedy Library. Long may it flourish.

Thank you, and bless you all.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 20, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
AND DIRECTOR OF SPEECHWRITING

FROM: FRED F. FIELDING
COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Draft Presidential Remarks for J.F.K.
Memorial Library Fundraiser

In response to the memorandum of yesterday, I have reviewed the above-referenced remarks and would like to express one concern from a legal perspective.

The next to the last paragraph of the remarks, on page 5, contains a statement that the President and Mrs. Reagan are making a personal contribution "to the only presidential library that accepts no national endowment." This characterization of the Kennedy Library is unclear, and might be interpreted to suggest that the Library accepts no federal funds. This would be incorrect.

My office has requested clarification from Ms. Kim Timmons, the researcher involved in the preparation of these remarks, who advises that the statement does not pertain to federal funding. Rather, the goal was to communicate the fact that the Library does not have a national endowment. The nature of such a "national endowment" is still not clear, and I understand that Ms. Timmons is currently investigating the precise distinction between the Kennedy Library and others. Once this has been ascertained, I recommend that the statement be revised to ensure that there is no confusion about the question of Federal funding.

cc: David L. Chew

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

4940

June 20, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT

FROM: WILLIAM F. MARTIN *WFM*
SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: Fundraiser for
JFK Memorial Library

The NSC has reviewed the attached Presidential remarks and has made a suggested deletion on page 2.

Attachment

As stated

cc: David L. Chew

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

URGENT

DATE: 6/19/85 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: Thurs., 6/20, Noon

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: FUNDRAISER FOR JFK MEMORIAL LIBRARY
(5:00 pm, June 19 draft)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
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REGAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	McFARLANE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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CHAVEZ	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	RYAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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FRIEDERSDORF	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	TUTTLE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HENKEL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ELLIOTT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HICKEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HICKS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
KINGON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

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William A. Mat

RESPONSE:

DB →

David L. Chew
 Staff Secretary
 Ext. 2702

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*delicate
not necessary*

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