

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library
Digital Library Collections

This is a PDF of a folder from our textual collections.

Collection: Appointments and Scheduling, Office of:
Records

Folder Title: [John F. Kennedy Memorial Library
Fundraiser 06/24/1985]

Box: OA 18819

To see more digitized collections visit:

<https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digital-library>

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library inventories visit:

<https://reaganlibrary.gov/document-collection>

Contact a reference archivist at: reagan.library@nara.gov

Citation Guidelines: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/citing>

National Archives Catalogue: <https://catalog.archives.gov/>

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 21, 1985

John F. Kennedy Memorial Library Fundraiser

DATE: June 24, 1985
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
FROM: Frederick J. Ryan, Jr. *FJR*

I. PURPOSE

To participate in a fundraiser for the John F. Kennedy Memorial Library at Senator Edward Kennedy's residence.

II. BACKGROUND

Most recent Presidents have been alive to personally participate in the fundraising activities for their Library endowment funds. In the case of the Kennedy Library, Caroline and John Kennedy, Jr. have taken responsibility for this effort.

In March, Caroline and John Kennedy, Jr. met with you and asked your assistance in raising money for the John F. Kennedy Memorial Library in Boston, Massachusetts. The Library has no endowment at present and plans to raise 8 million dollars in the next four and half years. You expressed your willingness to help and agreed to attend a fundraiser at Senator Kennedy's home in McLean.

III. PARTICIPANTS

The President
Mrs. Reagan
Senator Edward Kennedy
Caroline Kennedy
John Kennedy, Jr.
Jacqueline Onassis
Ethel Kennedy
Invited guests

IV. PRESS PLAN

White House photographer
Pool reporters

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

7:00 p.m. The President and Mrs. Reagan depart for Senator Kennedy's residence.

(See Advance schedule for detailed sequence at Senator Kennedy's residence.)

8:55 p.m. The President and Mrs. Reagan arrive back at the White House.

~~OFFICIAL~~ 7:15

walk through

6:45 pm Motorcade departs
7:00 pm Motorcade arrives,

Met outside by:

Senator Edward "Ted" Kennedy
Mrs. Jackie Onassis
2 others TBD

RR/Mrs, esc by...., proceed inside to dining room and form receiving line.

Probable Receiving Line

Senator Kennedy
The President
Mrs. Reagan
Jackie Onassis
Ethel Kennedy
Caroline Kennedy
John Kennedy

7:05 pm Receiving line begins.

NO PRESS COVERAGE

7:35 pm Receiving line concludes.

RR/Mrs, esc by _____, proceed to living room to mix and mingle with guests.

7:45 pm RR/Mrs, esc by, proceed to den ~~xxxxxxx~~ for refreshments with ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ Kennedy family members.

NOTE: Guests are escorted outside to dining area.

7:55 pm RR/Mrs, proceed outside to dining area.

8:00 pm RR/Mrs, arrive dining area and proceed onto to dais.

8:01 → Caroline Kennedy makes remarks.

8:04 pm Sen. Kennedy makes remarks

8:09 pm RR makes remarks.

8:15 pm RR concludes remarks. *Joined on stage by Ethel & kids*
RR/Mrs., esc by Sen. Kennedy, ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ return to house to hold ~~xxxxx~~ briefly.

8:20 pm RR/Mrs. arrive holding room.

8:25 pm RR/Mrs proceed to motorcade for boarding.

8:30 pm Motorcade departs

8:45 pm Motorcade arrives.

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 checked="" 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"/>	<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 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:

Received SS
1985 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 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.

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 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.

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.

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.

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 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.