1. MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE FAMILY OF JOHN F. KENNEDY:

2. I AM HONORED TO BE HERE ON THIS OCCASION
   AT ONCE SO-SOLEMN-AND-SO-JOYOUS --

3. THE DEDICATION OF THE JOHN F. KENNEDY LIBRARY.

4. LIKE A GREAT CATHEDRAL, THIS BUILDING WAS A LONG TIME COMING.

5. BUT IT MORE THAN JUSTIFIES THE WAIT.

6. ITS GRACE AND DIGNITY ARE WORTHY OF THE MAN WHOSE MEMORY
   IT WILL NURTURE.

7. I NEVER MET HIM, BUT I KNOW THAT JOHN KENNEDY LOVED POLITICS;

8. HE LOVED LAUGHTER;

9. AND WHEN THE TWO CAME TOGETHER,
   HE LOVED THAT BEST OF ALL.

10. FOR EXAMPLE, AT A PRESS CONFERENCE IN MARCH, 1962,
   HE WAS ASKED THIS TWO-PART QUESTION:

11. "MR. PRESIDENT, YOUR BROTHER TED SAID RECENTLY ON TELEVISION
    THAT AFTER SEEING THE CARES OF OFFICE ON YOU,
    HE WASN'T SURE HE'D EVER BE INTERESTED
    IN BEING THE PRESIDENT.

12. "I WONDER IF YOU COULD TELL US WHETHER
    IF YOU HAD IT TO DO OVER AGAIN
    YOU WOULD WORK FOR THE PRESIDENCY, ...

13. AND WHETHER YOU CAN RECOMMEND THE JOB TO OTHERS."
1. THE PRESIDENT REPLIED:
"WELL, THE ANSWER TO THE FIRST IS "YES"
AND TO THE SECOND IS "NO" --
I DON'T RECOMMEND IT TO OTHERS,
AT LEAST FOR A WHILE."

2. PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S WIT AND WISDOM
IS CERTAINLY STILL AS RELEVANT AS EVER. //

3. THIS LIBRARY, THIS REPOSITORY OF FACTS AND IDEAS,
WILL FEED HISTORY WITH A PERMANENT RECORD
OF THE DREAMS OF JOHN KENNEDY
AND THE REALIZATION OF THEM.

4. IN AMERICA THE RECORDS OF A GREAT POLITICAL LEADER
WILL NOT BE THREATENED BY SUCCEEDING POLITICAL REGIMES
WHICH MIGHT FEAR THEM,...

5. FOR WE ARE A NATION COMMITTED TO FREEDOM
AND THE PURSUIT OF TRUTH. /

6. A LIBRARY IS AN ESPECIALLY FITTING TRIBUTE TO JOHN KENNEDY,
7. FOR HE WAS NOT ONLY A MAKER-OF-HISTORY,
BUT A WRITER OF IT.

8. HIS FAME AS AN AUTHOR OF BOOKS FORETOLD HIS FAME
AS AN AUTHOR OF EVENTS.

9. HE SAID HE HAD FEW APPREHENSIONS ABOUT
HOW HIS PRESIDENCY WOULD FARE IN HISTORY,

10. BECAUSE HE PLANNED TO WRITE THAT HISTORY HIMSELF. ◆
1. To our loss we will never read the books he would have written.

2. His death impoverished not only statecraft but literature as well.

3. But in this building, the work of reflection and evaluation—which he anticipated—will thrive.

4. President Kennedy understood the past and respected its shaping of the future.

5. Yet he was very much a man of his time.

6. The first president born in this century, he embodied the ideals of a generation as few public figures have ever done.

7. He summoned our nation out of complacency and set it on a path of excitement and hope.

8. The accomplishments of his thousand days were admirable.

9. Though his presidency was too short for him to finish all the many tasks he set for himself.

10. We honor him not just for the things he completed, but even more for the things he set in motion, the energies he released, the ideas and ideals he espoused.
1. PRESIDENT KENNEDY TOOK OFFICE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE TEXTURE OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC LIFE WAS CHANGING AND THAT THE NATION WOULD HAVE TO CHANGE WITH IT.

2. "CHANGE IS THE LAW OF LIFE," HE ONCE SAID.

3. "AND THOSE WHO LOOK ONLY TO THE PAST OR THE PRESENT ARE CERTAIN TO MISS THE FUTURE."

4. HE HAD A VISION OF HOW AMERICA COULD MEET AND MASTER THE FORCES OF CHANGE HE SAW AROUND HIM.

5. PRESIDENT KENNEDY ENTERED THE WHITE HOUSE CONVINCED THAT RACIAL AND RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION WAS MORALLY INDEFENSIBLE.

6. LATER THAT CONVICTION BECAME A PASSION -- A PASSION THAT HIS BROTHER ROBERT SHARED AND CARRIED FORWARD.

7. AS A SOUTHERNER I SAW AT FIRSTHAND HOW MORAL LEADERSHIP OF THE KENNEDY ADMINISTRATION HELPED UNDO THE WRONGS THAT GREW OUT OF OUR NATION'S HISTORY.

8. TODAY THE PROBLEM OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE UNITED STATES IS SHIFTING FROM INEQUALITY OF LEGAL RIGHTS TO INEQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY.

9. BUT THE MORAL IMPERATIVE REMAINS. WE ARE ALL AMERICANS. WE ARE ALL CHILDREN OF THE SAME GOD. RACIAL VIOLENCE AND RACIAL HATRED CAN HAVE NO PLACE AMONG US.
1. President Kennedy sought to move our foreign policy beyond the sterility of the Cold War.

2. He never failed to uphold liberty and condemn tyranny;...

3. Yet he saw very clearly that the threat of nuclear destruction had created the need for mutual accommodation with our potential adversaries.

4. He warned against turning the world into "a prison in which man awaits his executioner."

5. When the nuclear test ban treaty was signed in 1963, he voiced the hope,...

6. Though he dared not yet voice the prediction, ...

7. That there would someday be controls on the numbers and types of nuclear armaments.

8. [Sixteen years later] the 'Salt II' treaty can redeem that hope.

9. Its ratification will be a further fulfillment of the hopes of all humanity.

10. President Kennedy also knew that the future of freedom would be increasingly bound up with social, political and economic justice.

11. In what has since become known as the Third World,
1. ONE BOLD EXPRESSION OF THIS VISION WAS THE PEACE CORPS --
2. WHICH, WITH ITS COMBINATION OF ACTIVISM, IDEALISM, AND ADVENTURE,
   SUMMED UP SO MANY OF JOHN KENNETDY'S VIRTUES. /
3. I AM PROUD THAT THIS COMMITMENT HAS NOW BEEN VIGOROUSLY RENEWED.
4. AND THAT AMERICA ONCE AGAIN HOLDS OUT HER HAND TO THE POOR, THE SILENCED, AND OPPRESSED OF EVERY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD. //
5. LIKE EVERY PRESIDENT WHO HOPES TO LEAVE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE THAN HE FOUND IT,
6. PRESIDENT KENNETDY CHAFED UNDER THE LIMITS OF HIS POWER TO ACT. THESE LIMITS ON A PRESIDENT STILL EXIST.
7. AS HE PUT IT DURING HIS SECOND YEAR IN OFFICE,
8. "THERE ARE GREATER LIMITATIONS UPON OUR ABILITY TO BRING ABOUT A FAVORABLE RESULT THAN I HAD IMAGINED."
9. YET PRESIDENT KENNETDY PERSISTED.
10. HE BECAME, AND HE REMAINS, A SYMBOL OF HUMAN ASPIRATION. //
11. PERHAPS THAT IS WHY THE OUTPOURING OF GRIEF AT HIS DEATH HAD SUCH A SPECIAL QUALITY.
1. ON THAT NOVEMBER DAY ALMOST 16 YEARS AGO A TERRIBLE MOMENT WAS FROZEN IN TIME.

2. I REMEMBER THAT I CLIMBED DOWN FROM A TRACTOR, UNHOOKED A FARM TRAILER, AND WALKED INTO MY WAREHOUSE TO WEIGH A LOAD OF GRAIN.

3. AND WAS TOLD BY A GROUP OF FARMERS THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD BEEN SHOT.

4. I WENT OUTSIDE, KNELT ON THE STEPS, AND BEGAN TO PRAY.

5. IN A FEW MINUTES I LEARNED THAT HE HAD NOT LIVED.

6. IT WAS A GRIEVOUS PERSONAL LOSS.

7. MY PRESIDENT.

8. I WEPT OPENLY, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MORE THAN TEN YEARS -- FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE DAY MY FATHER DIED.

9. PEOPLE WEPT IN BOSTON AND IN PARIS, IN ATLANTA AND IN WARSAW, IN SAN FRANCISCO AND IN NEW DEHLI.

10. MORE THAN ANYONE HAD REALIZED BEFORE THAT DAY, THE SPIRIT OF THIS YOUNG AMERICAN PRESIDENT HAD TAKEN HOLD OF THE HEARTS AND IMAGINATIONS OF COUNTLESS MILLIONS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

11. DURING THE MONTHS THAT FOLLOWED -- IN CIVIL RIGHTS, IN MEDICAL CARE FOR THE AGED, IN GREATER DIGNITY FOR THE POOR --

12. HIS VISION WAS CARRIED INTO REALITY WITH THE HELP OF A UNITED CONGRESS AND PEOPLE.
1. AT THE TIME, THE TRAGEDY IN DALLAS SEEMED AN ISOLATED CONVULSION OF MADNESS.

2. BUT IN RETROSPECT IT APPEARS NEAR THE BEGINNING OF A TIME OF DARKNESS.

3. FROM VIETNAM TO CAMBODIA,
   FROM LOS ANGELES TO MEMPHIS,
   FROM KENT STATE TO WATERGATE --

4. THE AMERICAN SPIRIT SUFFERED UNDER ONE SHOCK AFTER ANOTHER,

5. AND THE CONFIDENCE OF OUR PEOPLE WAS DEEPLY SHAKEN. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE GOOD & STRONG.

6. WE HAVE UNDERTAKEN A SOLEMN COMMITMENT TO HEAL THOSE WOUNDS,

7. AND AT LONG LAST THE DARKNESS HAS BEGUN TO LIFT.

8. I BELIEVE THAT AMERICA IS NOW READY TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF THE 1980'S WITH RENEWED CONFIDENCE AND A REFRESHED SPIRIT.

9. THESE CHALLENGES, OF COURSE, ARE NOT THE SAME ONES THAT CONFRONTED US A GENERATION AGO.

10. THE CARVED DESK IN THE OVAL OFFICE IS THE SAME AS WHEN JOHN F. KENNEDY SAT BEHIND IT,

11. BUT THE PROBLEMS THAT LAND ON THAT DESK ARE QUITE DIFFERENT.

12. PRESIDENT KENNEDY WAS RIGHT: CHANGE IS THE LAW OF LIFE.


14. OUR EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THAT WORLD MUST BE DIFFERENT AS WELL.
1. After a decade of high inflation and growing oil imports,

2. our economic cup no longer OVER FLOWS.

3. Because of inflation,

   fiscal restraint has become a matter of simple public duty.

4. We can no longer rely on a rising economic tide to lift the boats of the poorest in our society.

5. We must focus our attention directly on them.

6. We have a keener appreciation of limits --

   the limits of government,

   limits on the use of military power abroad,

   the limits on manipulating

   without harm to ourselves

   a delicate and balanced

   natural environment.

7. We are struggling with the profound transition from a time of abundance to a time of growing scarcity in energy.

8. We are only beginning to learn the new habits and to acquire the new technologies that will carry us to a future age of clean renewable energy.
1. AND WE FACE THESE PROBLEMS AT A TIME WHEN CENTRIFUGAL FORCES IN OUR SOCIETY AND IN OUR POLITICAL SYSTEM --

2. FORCES OF REGIONALISM, OF ETHNICITY, OF NARROW ECONOMIC INTEREST, OF SINGLE-ISSUE POLITICS --

3. ARE TESTING THE RESILIENCY OF AMERICAN PLURALISM AND OUR ABILITY TO GOVERN.

4. BUT WE CAN AND WE WILL PREVAIL.

5. THE PROBLEMS ARE DIFFERENT;

6. THE SOLUTIONS, NONE OF THEM EASY, ARE DIFFERENT AS WELL.

7. BUT IN THIS AGE OF HARD CHOICES AND SCARCE RESOURCES, THE ESSENCE OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S MESSAGE --

8. THE APPEAL FOR UNSELFISH DEDICATION TO THE COMMON GOOD --

9. IS MORE URGENT THAN EVER.

10. THE SPIRIT HE EVOKED --

11. THE SPIRIT OF SACRIFICE, OF PATRIOTISM, OF UNSTINTING DEDICATION --

12. IS THE SAME SPIRIT THAT WILL BRING US SAFELY THROUGH THE ADVERSITIES WE FACE.
1. [WITH EACH ERA, WITH EACH PRESIDENT, 
   THE TASKS BEFORE US CHANGE.]

2. [YE]THE OVER-ARCHING PURPOSE OF THE NATION REMAINS THE SAME:

3. TO BUILD A JUST SOCIETY,
   IN A SECURE AMERICA LIVING AT PEACE
   WITH THE OTHER COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD.

4. THE LIBRARY WE DEDICATE TODAY IS A SYMBOL,
   ABOVE ALL, OF THAT UNCHANGING PURPOSE.

5. THROUGH OUR STUDY HERE OF HIS WORDS AND DEEDS,
   THE SERVICE OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY
   WILL KEEP ITS HIGH PLACE
   IN THE HEARTS OF MANY GENERATIONS
   OF AMERICANS. //

6. THIS LIBRARY MAY BE DEDICATED WITH THE WORDS OF A
   POET FROM TENNESSEE,

7. A CONTEMPORARY OF THE PRESIDENT WHOSE NAME THE LIBRARY WILL BEAR: //

8. "TO THOSE WHO IN ALL TIMES HAVE SOUGHT TRUTH
   AND HAVE TOLD IT IN THEIR ART,
   OR IN THEIR LIVING,
   WHO DIED IN HONOR;.....

9. "TO THOSE WHO DIED IN THE HIGH AND HUMBLE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD;.....
1. "TO THOSE WHO DIED IN-SORROW,
    AND IN-KINDNESS,
    AND IN-BRAVERY;
    TO THOSE WHO DIED IN VIOLENCE SUDDENLY;

2. "TO THOSE WHO DIED IN THE TIME
    OF THE JOY OF THEIR STRENGTH . . . ."

3. THIS LIBRARY IS DEDICATED
    TO JOHN F. KENNEDY,
    35TH PRESIDENT
    OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

#    #    #

(Extracts from James Agee's own Dedication to his first book of poems, "Permit Me Voyage.")
I am honored to be among you today on this occasion at once so solemn and so joyous: the dedication of the John F. Kennedy Library. This building was a long time coming, but it more than redeems the wait. Its grace and dignity are worthy of the man whose memory it enshrines.

This Library celebrates a life well spent and a blithe spirit. John Kennedy loved politics; he loved laughter; and when the two came together, he loved that best of all.

*This would be omitted from the press release text.*
For example, at President Kennedy's press conference of March 29, 1962, a reporter asked this two-part question:

"Mr. President, your brother Ted said recently on television that after seeing the cares of office on you, he wasn't sure he'd ever be interested in being the President. I wonder if you could tell us whether if you had to do over again you would work for the Presidency, and whether you can recommend the job to others."

The President replied: "Well, the answer to the first is 'yes' and to the second is 'no' -- I don't recommend it to others, at least for a while."

[President Kennedy loved Massachusetts as much as he loved laughter. It is fitting that this beautiful library, dedicated to his memory, has been built here on Boston Harbor, not far from where he was born and educated and first elected to public office.]
And a library is an especially fitting memorial to this particular President. For a library is a temple to the study of history, and John Kennedy was not only a maker of history but a writer of it.

His fame as an author of books presaged his fame as an author of events. He used to say that he had few apprehensions about how his Presidency would fare in history, because he planned to write that history himself.

To our loss, we will never read the books he would have written. His death impoverished not only statecraft but literature as well. But in this building, the work of reflection and evaluation to which he had looked forward will thrive.

President Kennedy understood the past and respected its hold on the future. Yet he was very much a man of his time. The first President born in this century, he embodied
the ideals of a generation as few public figures have ever done. He summoned his country out of the complacency of the 1950's and set it on a path of excitement and hope.

His Presidency was too short for him to finish the many tasks he set for himself. Yet the accomplishments of his thousand days were very great. We honor him not just for the things he saw to completion in the time he had, but even more for the things he set in motion, the energies he released, the ideas and ideals he encouraged.

President Kennedy came to office committed to change. The texture of social and economic life was changing and that the Nation would have to change with them. "Change is the law of life," he once said. "And those who look only to the past or the present are certain to miss the future." He saw the coming transformation of national-and international-life,
He had a vision of how America could meet and master the forces of change he saw around him.

President Kennedy entered the White House with a conviction that racial discrimination was morally indefensible. Toward the end of his life, that conviction became a passion—a passion that Robert Kennedy shared and carried forward.

As a native of the South, I saw at first hand how moral leadership of the Kennedy Administration helped undo the wrongs that grew out of our history. Today, as we strive to overcome the lingering effects of past discrimination, the spectrum of human rights problems in the United States has shifted from inequality of rights to inequality of opportunity. But the moral imperative remains.

President Kennedy sought to move our foreign policy beyond its preoccupation with an increasingly sterile
Cold War. He never failed to draw the distinction between liberty and tyranny; yet he saw very clearly that in the sphere of nuclear weapons the threat of mutual destruction had created the need for mutual accommodation. He warned, as he warned, would be to turn the world into "a prison in which man awaits his executioner."

When President Kennedy announced the signing of the nuclear test ban treaty of 1963, he voiced the hope -- though he dared not yet voice the prediction -- that there would eventually be controls on the numbers and types of nuclear armaments. Sixteen years later, the SALT II treaty has redeemed that hope. Its ratification will be a further fulfillment of the hopes of all humanity.

President Kennedy saw that for peace to flourish, so must trade. His Trade Expansion Act launched the successful round of trade negotiations that bore his name. With the Trade Agreements Act of 1979, we have taken another long...
step along the path he charted.

President Kennedy also knew that the future of freedom in the West would be increasingly bound up with social, political and economic justice in what has since become known as the Third World.

One expression of this was the Peace Corps -- which, with its combination of activism, idealism and adventure, summed up so many of John Kennedy's virtues. In this and in other ways, President Kennedy put the United States firmly on the side of democracy, development and reform.

By the beginning of the present decade, our government had slipped away from that commitment. I am proud that it has now been renewed and that it is vigorously expressed through American support for human rights, encouragement of democratic reforms, and efforts to help meet the basic human needs of the world's poorest people.
Like every President who hopes to leave the world a better place than he found it, President Kennedy chafed under the limits of his power to speed the changes he knew were needed. As he put it [in an interview] during his second year in office, "There are greater limitations upon our ability to bring about a favorable result than I had imagined." Yet President Kennedy remained, and remains, a symbol of limitless human possibility.

Perhaps that is why when he was taken from us, the outpouring of grief that followed had such a special quality. Because President Kennedy lived his life so intensely, its end confronted us with the mystery of mortality and the everlasting fragility of the human condition.

On that terrible afternoon -- fifteen years, eleven months and two days ago -- the world's business abruptly halted. People wept in Boston, in Chicago, in Atlanta, in
and

San Francisco — and in Paris, in Warsaw, in New Delhi and in Tokyo. More than anyone had realized before that day, the [shimmering figure] of this young American President had taken hold of the hearts and imaginations of countless millions throughout the world.

In the years that followed, [many of the seeds President Kennedy had planted grew to fruition] in civil rights, in medical care for the aged, in [the fight for] greater dignity for the poor — [in these and many other areas] his vision has been carried into reality with the help of a united Congress and people.

[Yet the [dozen years] after President Kennedy's death were a very painful period for our country.] At the time of his death, the tragedy in Dallas seemed an isolated convulsion of madness, [unreason] [in the generally tranquil aspect of our national life.] But in retrospect it appears [as] the beginning of a
time of darkness. From Vietnam to Watts from Los Angeles to Memphis, from Kent State to Watergate, the American spirit suffered under one shock after another. For a shameful interval in our history, the ideals that John F. Kennedy had brought to government seemed no longer welcome there, and the confidence of our people was deeply shaken.

We have undertaken a solemn commitment to help heal those wounds. As John F. Kennedy's compatriot and successor, I have struggled to restore to the Presidency of the United States the ideals of decency, honor and service which must distinguish the government of a free people.

I believe that America is now ready to tackle the challenges of the 1980s with renewed confidence and a refreshed spirit.

Those challenges, of course, are not the same as those in 1963, that confronted us a generation ago. The carved desk in
is the same as the Oval Office when John F. Kennedy sat behind it, but the problems that land on that desk are quite different.

President Kennedy was right: change is the law of life.

The world of 1980 is very different from that of 1960, almost as different as the world of 1960 was from that of 1940.

Our efforts to shape that world must be different as well.

After a decade of high inflation and growing oil imports, our economic cup no longer runs over. Because of inflation, fiscal restraint is no longer a matter of ideological preference but of simple public duty. We can no longer take productivity, investment or innovation for granted. We can no longer rely on a rising economic tide to lift the boats of the poorest in our society.

We have a keener appreciation of limits -- the limits of government wisdom at home; the limits of military power
abroad; the limits of human ability to manipulate without harm a natural environment we now see as a delicate and balanced whole.

We are struggling with the profound transition from a time of abundance to a time of scarcity in energy. We are only beginning to learn the new habits, and to acquire the new technologies, that will carry us to a future age of clean, renewable energy.

And we face these problems at a time when centrifugal forces in our society—forces of regionalism, of ethnicity, of narrow economic interest, of single-issue politics—are testing the resiliency of American pluralism.

The problems are different; the solutions, none of them easy, are different as well. But in this age of hard choices and scarce resources, the essence of President

*This bracketed insert is optional if you wish to approach the position of Stu and Lloyd Cutler as outlined in Draft B-3.
Kennedy's message -- the appeal for unselfish dedication to the common good -- is more urgent than ever. The spirit he evoked -- the spirit of sacrifice, of patriotism, of unstinting dedication -- is the same spirit that will bring us safely through the adversities we face.

With each era, with each Administration, the tasks before us change. Old solutions give rise to new problems, or uncover problems long neglected. Yet the overarching purpose of the Nation remains the same: That purpose is to build the building of a just society, in an America living in peace and security with the other countries of the world.

The library we dedicate today is a token, above all, of that unchanging purpose. Through it the example of President Kennedy will take its high place in the hearts of many generations of Americans. The millions who enter here will hear John Kennedy say, in the words of his favorite poet, Robert Frost:
They would not find me changed
from him they knew --

Only more sure of all I thought was true.

#  #  #  #

Electrostatic Copy Made
for Preservation Purposes
Members and friends of the Kennedy Family:

I am honored to be here, on this occasion at once so solemn and so joyous: the dedication of the John F. Kennedy Library. Like a great cathedral, this building was a long time coming, but it more than justifies the wait. Its grace and dignity are worthy of the man whose memory it will nurture.

A library has a special meaning in a nation committed to freedom and truth. This repository of facts and ideas will feed the record of dreams and the realization of them. It will feed history with a permanence which in America will not be threatened by succeeding political regimes which might fear them, for we are a nation committed to freedom and the pursuit of truth. This is especially significant to John Kennedy, for he who was not only a maker of history, but a writer of it.
For example, at a press conference in March, 1962, he was asked this two-part question: "Mr. President, your brother Ted said recently on television that after seeing the cares of office on you, he wasn't sure he'd ever be interested in being the President. I wonder if you could tell us whether if you had it to do over again you would work for the Presidency, and whether you can recommend the job to others."

The President replied: "Well, the answer to the first is 'yes' and to the second is 'no' -- I don't recommend it to others, at least for a while."
I never met him, but I know that John Kennedy loved politics; he loved laughter; and when the two came together, he loved that best of all.

President Kennedy's wisdom is certainly relevant in our own time.

His fame as an author of books foretold his fame as an author of events. He said he had few apprehensions about how his Presidency would fare in history, because he planned to write that history himself.

To our loss, we will never read the books he would have written. His death impoverished not only statecraft but literature as well. But in this building, his anticipated work of reflection and evaluation will thrive.
President Kennedy understood the past and respected its future. Yet he was very much a man of his time. The first President born in this century, he embodied the ideals of a generation as few public figures have ever done. He summoned our nation out of its complacency and set it on a path of excitement and hope.

The accomplishments of his thousand days were admirable, though his Presidency was too short for him to finish all the many tasks he set for himself. We honor him not just for the things he completed, but even more for the things he set in motion, the energies he released, the ideas and ideals he birthed, espoused, encouraged.

President Kennedy took office understanding that the texture of social and economic life was changing and that the nation would have to change with them. "Change is the law of life," he once said. "And those who look only to the past or the present are certain to miss the future." He had a vision
of how America could meet and master the forces of change he saw around him.

President Kennedy entered the White House convinced that racial and religious discrimination was morally indefensible. Later that conviction became a passion -- a passion that his brother Robert shared and carried forward.

As a Southerner, I saw at first hand how moral leadership of the Kennedy Administration helped undo the wrongs that grew out of our nation's history. Today the problem of human rights in the United States is shifting from inequality of legal rights to inequality of opportunity. But the moral imperative remains.

President Kennedy sought to move our foreign policy beyond a sterile Cold War. He never failed to uphold liberty and condemn tyranny; yet he saw very clearly that the threat of
of nuclear destruction had created the need for mutual accomodation. He warned against turning the world into a prison in which man awaits his executioner."

When the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty was signed in 1963, he voiced the hope -- though he dared not yet voice the prediction -- that there would someday be controls on the numbers and types of nuclear armaments. Sixteen years later, the SALT II Treaty can redeem that hope. Its ratification will be a further fulfillment of the hopes of all humanity.

President Kennedy also knew that the future of freedom would be increasingly bound up with social, political and economic justice in what has since become known as the Third World.

One bold expression of this was the Peace Corps -- which, with its combination of activism, idealism and adventure, summed up so many of John Kennedy's virtues.
I am proud that this commitment has now been vigorously renewed through American support for human rights, encouragement to the poor, the silenced and oppressed of every of democratic reforms, and our efforts to help meet the basic human needs of the world's poorest people.

Like every President who hopes to leave the world a better place than he found it, President Kennedy chafed under the limits of his power to act. As he put it during his second year in office, "There are greater limitations upon our ability to bring about a favorable result than I had imagined."

Yet President Kennedy persisted, and he stands today as a symbol of human aspiration.

Perhaps that is why the outpouring of grief at his death had such a special quality. People wept in Boston and Paris, Atlanta, San Francisco and in Atlanta, in Paris and in Warsaw, in New Dehli and in Tokyo.

More than anyone had realized before that day, the spirit of this young American President had taken hold of the hearts and imaginations of countless millions throughout the world.
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

On that November day, almost 16 years ago a terrible moment was frozen in time. I remember that I climbed down from a tractor, unlocked a farm trailer, load of peanuts and walked into a warehouse to weigh the load of grain, peanuts, and was told by a group of farmers that the President had been shot. I went outside the steps and began to pray. In a few minutes I learned that he had not died. It was a personal loss. My President. I wept openly, for the first time in more than ten years, for the first time since my father died.
the years that followed, in civil rights, in medical care for the aged, in greater dignity for the poor — his vision was carried into reality with the help of a united Congress and people.

At the time of his death, the tragedy in Dallas seemed an isolated convulsion of madness, but in retrospect it appears near the beginning of a time of darkness. From Vietnam to Cambodia, from Kent State to Watergate, the American spirit suffered under one shock after another, and the confidence of our people seemed to be deeply shaken.

We have undertaken a solemn commitment to heal those wounds, and I believe that America is now ready to meet the challenges of the 1980s with renewed confidence and a refreshed spirit.
Those challenges, of course, are not the same as those that confronted us in 1963. The carved desk in the Oval Office is the same as when John F. Kennedy sat behind it, but the problems that land on that desk are quite different.

President Kennedy was right: change is the law of life. The world of 1980 is as different from that of 1960 as the world of 1960 was from that of 1940. Our efforts to improve that world must be different as well.

After a decade of high inflation and growing oil imports, our economic cup no longer runs over. Because of inflation, fiscal restraint is no longer a matter of ideological preference but of simple public duty. We can no longer take productivity, investment or innovation for granted. We can no longer rely on a rising economic tide to lift the boats of the poorest in our society. We must focus our attention on them.
We have a keener appreciation of limits -- the limits of government; the limits of military power abroad; the limits of human ability to manipulate without harming a natural environment, we now see as a delicate and balanced whole.

We are struggling with the profound transition from a time of abundance to a time of growing scarcity in energy. We are only beginning to learn the new habits and to acquire the new technologies that will carry us to a future age of clean renewable energy.

And we face these problems at a time when centrifugal forces in our society and our political system -- forces of regionalism, of ethnicity, of narrow economic interest, of single-issue politics -- are testing the resiliency of American pluralism.

But we can and we will prevail.
* "To those who in all times have sought truth and have told it in their art or in their living, who died in honor . . . .

"To those who died in the high and humble knowledge of God . . . .

"(T)o those who died in sorrow, and in kindness, and in bravery; to those who died in violence suddenly . . . .

"(T)o those who died in the time of the joy of their strength . . . ."

"To those living and soon-to-die who tell truth or tell of truth, or who honorably seek to tell, or who tell the truths of others . . . .

"To those who know God lives, and who defend him . . . .

*Extracts from James Agee's own Dedication to his first book of poems, "Permit Me Voyage."
The problems are different; the solutions, none of them easy, are different as well. But in this age of hard choices and scarce resources, the essence of President Kennedy's message -- the appeal for unselfish dedication to the common good -- is more urgent than ever. The spirit he evoked -- the spirit of sacrifice, of patriotism, of unstinting dedication -- is the same spirit that will bring us safely through the adversities we face.

With each era, with each President, the tasks before us change. Yet the overarching purpose of the nation remains the same: to build a just society, in a secure America living at peace with the other countries of the world.

The library we dedicate today is a symbol of our unchanging purpose. Through the study here of his words and deeds, the example of President Kennedy will keep its high place in the hearts of many generations of Americans.
"To those who know the high estate of art, and who defend it..."

This library is dedicated to John F. Kennedy, Thirty-fifth President of the United States of America.

Electrostatic Copy Made for Preservation Purposes
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

10-20-75

To Ford,

This is final

text—Distribute

what you wish—

[Signature]

Electrostatic Copy Made
for Preservation Purposes
Members and friends of the Family of John F. Kennedy:

I am honored to be here on this occasion at once so solemn and so joyous: the dedication of the John F. Kennedy Library. Like a great cathedral, this building was a long time coming. But it more than justifies the wait. Its grace and dignity are worthy of the man whose memory it will nurture.

I never met him, but I know that John Kennedy loved politics; he loved laughter; and when the two came together, he loved that best of all.

For example, at a press conference in March, 1962, he was asked this two-part question: "Mr. President, your
brother Ted said recently on television that after seeing
the cares of office on you, he wasn't sure he'd ever be
interested in being the President. I wonder if you could
tell us whether if you had it to do over again you would
work for the Presidency, and whether you can recommend the
job to others."

The President replied: "Well, the answer to the first
is 'yes' and to the second is 'no' -- I don't recommend it to
others, at least for a while."

President Kennedy's wit and wisdom is certainly still as
relevant as ever.

This library, this repository of facts and ideas, will feed
history with a permanent record of the dreams of John Kennedy and
the realization of them. In America the records of a great
political leader will not be threatened by succeeding political
regimes which might fear them, for we are a nation committed
to freedom and the pursuit of truth. A library is an especially
fitting tribute to John Kennedy, for he was not only a maker
of history, but a writer of it.

His fame as an author of books foretold his fame as
an author of events. He said he had few apprehensions
about how his Presidency would fare in history, because he
planned to write that history himself.

To our loss, we will never read the books he would have
written. His death impoverished not only statecraft but
literature as well. But in this building, the work of
reflection and evaluation which he anticipated will thrive.

President Kennedy understood the past and respected
its shaping of the future. Yet he was very much a man of his
time. The first President born in this century, he embodied
the ideals of a generation as few public figures have ever done.
He summoned our nation out of complacency and set it on a
path of excitement and hope.
The accomplishments of his thousand days were admirable, though his Presidency was too short for him to finish all the many tasks he set for himself. We honor him not just for the things he completed, but even more for the things he set in motion, the energies he released, the ideas and ideals he espoused.

President Kennedy took office understanding that the texture of social and economic life was changing and that the nation would have to change with it. "Change is the law of life," he once said. "And those who look only to the past or the present are certain to miss the future." He had a vision of how America could meet and master the forces of change he saw around him.

President Kennedy entered the White House convinced that racial and religious discrimination was morally indefensible.
Later that conviction became a passion -- a passion that his brother Robert shared and carried forward.

As a Southerner I saw at firsthand how moral leadership of the Kennedy Administration helped undo the wrongs that grew out of our nation's history. Today the problem of human rights in the United States is shifting from inequality of legal rights to inequality of opportunity. But the moral imperative remains.

President Kennedy sought to move our foreign policy beyond the sterility of the Cold War. He never failed to uphold liberty and condemn tyranny; yet he saw very clearly that the threat of nuclear destruction had created the need for mutual accommodation. He warned against turning the world into "a prison in which man awaits his executioner."
When the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty was signed in 1963, he voiced the hope -- though he dared not yet voice the prediction -- that there would someday be controls on the numbers and types of nuclear armaments. Sixteen years later, the SALT II Treaty can redeem that hope. Its ratification will be a further fulfillment of the hopes of all humanity.

President Kennedy also knew that the future of freedom would be increasingly bound up with social, political and economic justice in what has since become known as the Third World.

One bold expression of this vision was the Peace Corps -- which, with its combination of activism, idealism and adventure, summed up so many of John Kennedy's virtues.

I am proud that this commitment has now been vigorously renewed and that America once again holds out her hand to the poor, the silenced and oppressed of every country in the world.
Like every President who hopes to leave the world a better place than he found it, President Kennedy chafed under the limits of his power to act. As he put it during his second year in office, "There are greater limitations upon our ability to bring about a favorable result than I had imagined." Yet President Kennedy persisted. He became, and he remains, a symbol of human aspiration.

Perhaps that is why the outpouring of grief at his death had such a special quality.

On that November day almost 16 years ago a terrible moment was frozen in time. I remember that I climbed down from a tractor, unhooked a farm trailer and walked into my warehouse to weigh a load of grain, and was told by a group of farmers that the President had been shot. I went outside, knelt on the steps, and began to pray. In a few minutes
I learned that he had not lived. It was a grievous personal loss. My President. I wept openly, for the first time in more than ten years -- for the first time since the day my father died.

People wept in Boston and in Paris, in Atlanta and in Warsaw, in San Francisco and in New Dehli. More than anyone had realized before that day, the spirit of this young American President had taken hold of the hearts and imaginations of countless millions throughout the world.

During the years that followed -- in civil rights, in medical care for the aged, in greater dignity for the poor -- his vision was carried into reality with the help of a united Congress and people.

At the time, the tragedy in Dallas seemed an isolated convulsion of madness. But in retrospect it appears near the beginning of a time of darkness. From Vietnam to Cambodia,
from Los Angeles to Memphis, from Kent State to Watergate, the American spirit suffered under one shock after another, and the confidence of our people was deeply shaken.

We have undertaken a solemn commitment to heal those wounds, and at long last the darkness has begun to lift. I believe that America is now ready to meet the challenges of the 1980s with renewed confidence and a refreshed spirit.

These challenges, of course, are not the same ones that confronted us a generation ago. The carved desk in the Oval Office is the same as when John F. Kennedy sat behind it, but the problems that land on that desk are quite different.

President Kennedy was right: change is the law of life. The world of 1980 is as different from that of 1960 as the world of 1960 was from that of 1940. Our efforts to improve that world must be different as well.
After a decade of high inflation and growing oil imports, 
our economic cup no longer runs over. Because of inflation, 
fiscal restraint has become a matter of simple public duty. 
We can no longer rely on a rising economic tide to lift the 
boats of the poorest in our society. We must focus our 
attention directly on them. 

We have a keener appreciation of limits -- the limits 
of government; limits on the use of military power abroad; 
the limits on manipulating without harm to ourselves a 
delicate and balanced natural environment. 

We are struggling with the profound transition from 
a time of abundance to a time of growing scarcity in energy. 
We are only beginning to learn the new habits and to acquire 
the new technologies that will carry us to a future age of 
clean renewable energy.
And we face these problems at a time when centrifugal forces in our society and our political system -- forces of regionalism, of ethnicity, of narrow economic interest, of single-issue politics -- are testing the resiliency of American pluralism.

But we can and we will prevail.

The problems are different; the solutions, none of them easy, are different as well. But in this age of hard choices and scarce resources, the essence of President Kennedy's message -- the appeal for unselfish dedication to the common good -- is more urgent than ever. The spirit he evoked -- the spirit of sacrifice, of patriotism, of unstinting dedication -- is the same spirit that will bring us safely through the adversities we face.

With each era, with each President, the tasks before us change. Yet the overarching purpose of the nation remains
the same: to build a just society, in a secure America living at peace with the other countries of the world.

The library we dedicate today is a symbol, above all, of that unchanging purpose. Through our study here of his words and deeds, the service of President Kennedy will keep its high place in the hearts of many generations of Americans.

This library may be dedicated with the words of a poet from Tennessee, a contemporary of the President whose name the library will bear:

"To those who in all times have sought truth and have told it in their art or in their living, who died in honor . . . .

"To those who died in the high and humble knowledge of God . . . .

"(T)o those who died in sorrow, and in kindness, and in bravery; to those who died in violence suddenly . . . .
"(T)o those who died in the time of the joy of their strength . . . ."*

This library is dedicated to John F. Kennedy,

thirty-fifth President of the United States of America.

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