

LIBERTY

AN IDEA LIVES ON¹

President John F. Kennedy
President Dwight D. Eisenhower
President Harry S. Truman



In tribute to Mark Lane (1927-2016), his life of service to the search for truth, deep love of his country, and of the First Amendment; what he called the greatest sentence ever written.

¹ Revision of a "Tiny Play" (500 word limit, including stage instructions) initially written for and entered in The Kennedy Center's 2016 playwriting competition by: Karl N. Golovin, P.O. Box 1947, Alexandria, VA 22313 (JFKvigil@gmail.com)

1

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Three presidential-quality framed portraits, on easels, face the audience: KENNEDY center stage, TRUMAN to his left, EISENHOWER stage right.

A properly scaled "JFK Gold Coin" image is above and behind center stage: "LIBERTY" across the top edge; "1917-1963" along bottom edge; traditional coin motto "In God We Trust" replaced by "An Idea Lives On."

Available excerpts (all but TRUMAN) of historical audio recordings play via sound system. TRUMAN line pre-recorded or read by an off-stage actor.

Alternatively, an on-stage actor portrays TRUMAN, seated in a reading chair w/ side-table and lamp, or at a writing desk. "The Buck Stops Here" sign on table/ desk. Stage darkens at KBOX line. TRUMAN turns on lamp, pauses reflectively at his line.

Spotlights highlight active speakers, shifting at last line to JFK/ coin image.

EISENHOWER²

"In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist."

KENNEDY³

"The very word 'secrecy' is repugnant in a free and open society; and we are as a people inherently and historically opposed to secret societies, to secret oaths and to secret proceedings. We decided long ago that the dangers of excessive and unwarranted concealment of pertinent facts far outweighed the dangers which are cited to justify it. Even today, there is little value in opposing the threat of a closed society by imitating its arbitrary restrictions. Even today, there is little value in insuring the survival of our nation if our traditions do not survive with it. And there is very grave danger that an announced need for increased security will be seized upon by those anxious to expand its meaning to the very limits of official censorship and concealment. That I do not intend to permit to the extent that it is in my control. And no official of my Administration, whether his rank is high or low, civilian or military, should interpret my words here tonight as an excuse to censor the news, to stifle dissent, to cover up our mistakes or to withhold from the press and the public the facts they deserve to know."

² President Dwight D. Eisenhower's Farewell Address - January 17, 1961 (<http://tinyurl.com/jpgdhw9>)

³ President John F. Kennedy - "The President and the Press," before the American Newspaper Publishers Association, at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York City - April 27, 1961 (<http://tinyurl.com/3u6uuor>)

2

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KBOX-RADIO 1480 DALLAS⁴

"It - it app- it appears as though something has happened in the motorcade route, something - I repeat - has happened in the motorcade route! There's numerous people running up - the hill, alongside Elm Street, there by the Stemmons Freeway. Several police officers - are rushing - up the hill at this time. Standby - just a moment please. Something has happened in the motorcade route, standby please..."

TRUMAN⁵

Today, December 22nd, 1963, I've published my thoughts in a Washington Post article titled *Limit CIA Role to Intelligence*. - "I think it has become necessary to take another look at the purpose and operations of our Central Intelligence Agency—CIA... For some time I have been disturbed by the way CIA has been diverted from its original assignment. It has become an operational and at times a policy-making arm of the Government. This has led to trouble and may have compounded our difficulties in several explosive areas. I never had any thought that when I set up the CIA that it would be injected into peacetime cloak and dagger operations... the last thing we needed was for the CIA to be seized upon as something akin to a subverting influence in the affairs of other people... I, therefore, would like to see the CIA be restored to its original assignment. . . and that its operational duties be terminated... We have grown up as a nation, respected for our free institutions and for our ability to maintain a free and open society. There is something about the way the CIA has been functioning that is casting a shadow over our historic position and I feel that we need to correct it."

KENNEDY⁶

"A man may die, nations may rise and fall, but an idea lives on."

Curtain.

⁴ Samuel Pate, KBOX-Radio 1480, Dallas, TX (https://youtu.be/OErapzv_z5Q). It is disputed whether this well-known narrative of actual events was recorded contemporaneously, or is part of footage recreated (in a studio) soon after the assassination, then used in the album "Four Days That Shocked The World". Witnesses interviewed for *Rush to Judgment* (book and film by Mark Lane), including S.M. Holland, Richard C. Dodd, James Leon Simmons, Orville Nix and W.E. Newman, Jr., each confidently affirmed that gunfire originated from the "picket fence" (or "grassy knoll") area atop the hill; up which police and spectators rushed immediately after the last shot (see 4:45-10:23 of https://youtu.be/vpqjJ6_169E)

⁵ The Washington Post, December 22, 1963, page A11 (early editions only) copyright by Harry S. Truman - See: *Last Word: My Indictment of the CIA in the Murder of JFK* by Mark Lane, pages 238-41, ISBN 978-1-61608-428-8 (<http://tinyurl.com/ha4e54d>)

⁶ Remarks Recorded for the Opening of a U.S. Information Agency (USIA) Transmitter at Greenville, SC - February 8, 1963 (<http://www.jfklibrary.org/Asset-Viewer/Archives/JFKWHA-161-010.aspx>)

3

May 29 + November 22
www.JFKvigil.com

Join others in peaceably assembling at noon on these two dates (every six months) upon the north/public terrace (facing Watergate) of The Kennedy Center, Washington, DC.

May all cherishing liberty thus gather, petitioning by our presence for release of all information regarding JFK's assassination.

Honor the memory of President Kennedy!

