

John F. Kennedy is no longer with us. He departed as a victim of a

*Insistent voices from our pulpits,  
Television, and the  
press are  
reminding us  
that*

disease now prevalent in our land - a disease that defies modern anti-

biotics, vaccines, or drugs. *our people appear to agree that* He was most certainly the victim of hatred,

malice, *and* in the absence of understanding. The <sup>est</sup> great tragedy in our history

as you know, was the untimely execution of Jesus Christ. There is a

great parallel here. Our Lord was also a victim of hatred and division.

You have learned in your English classes that God moves in a mysterious

way, His wonders to perform. Perhaps He permitted this awful act as

a means of shocking us into <sup>a</sup> the realization of the need for a <sup>for</sup> greater

*reconstitution* reconstruction of our national conscious, substituting. ~~We~~ love

*ing, and* love and understand and mutual respect for the present poisoning being

thrust upon us by our extremists. The coward who performed this in-

famous act made no secret of his leaning. In fact, he brazenly

boasted of them. The very ~~city~~ <sup>city chosen where it occurred</sup> had experienced recent acts of

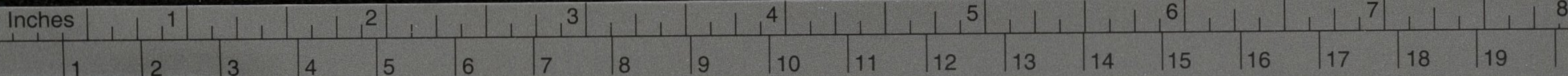
hatred and violence. Before we condemn this city or state, let us first

examine ourselves. We must share in the tragic event in Dallas. We

are all responsible in varying degrees to what happened to our neigh-

bors. We contribute to ~~our~~ ugliness whenever we belittle our govern-

ment. We increase meanness when we give only lip service to our church.



We nurture misunderstanding when we fail to treat our neighbors with respect. We be <sup>come</sup> ~~ome~~ lesser citizens when we fail to <sup>assume</sup> ~~give~~ our full

~~responsibility~~ responsibility for making this great democracy work. We

have all been diminished by <sup>this horrible and</sup> ~~Friday's~~ purposeless violence. John F.

Kennedy was closer to young people than any other President. He was

part of this campus ~~by~~ being the only president to ever visit here.

He <sup>along with his widow,</sup> stressed the need for physical fitness, training for specific jobs, <sup>opportunities</sup> ~~and~~

~~and reinforced along with his widow~~ <sup>and an appreciation of</sup> the need for beauty and the arts

in our lives. He was the hero of youth because of his physical and

<sup>visit here</sup> moral courage. During his ~~first year~~ at East Carolina College one

of his aids asked me what Mr. Kennedy could do to help us. In haste

I referred to the Southern Conference. This pleased the President for

he devoted part of his address, in the old stadium, to our athletic

ambition. If we learn any lesson at all from this tragedy it should

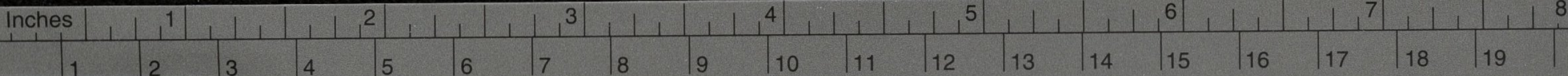
be the futility of cynicism <sup>and</sup> ~~and~~ smugness, <sup>as well as</sup> ~~and~~ the realization that these

are but steps toward bitter hatred. President Kennedy was symbolic

of the genuine desires of youth. Our young people embraced him be-

cause of their <sup>common</sup> ~~one~~ hope for a better American. His death should

summon us to a program of self examination leading to a greater



nation. We must rediscover and use the love that can be found in the

hearts of <sup>all</sup> ~~a~~ rational <sup>men.</sup> man. We must dedicate ourselves to the removal

of violence and hatred from our national lives. If we fail in

attaining this goal the dastardly deed of this ~~weekend~~ <sup>weekend</sup> may well be

repeated many times and many places throughout our land. I know that

you as college students feel that you have lost someone as dear as a

member of your family. Let us honor him in his rest by grasping a

new awareness of the American way of life and in his words, "Let us always

ask what we can do for our country and not what can our country do for

us."

