

—JOHN F. KENNEDY—AN APPRECIATION—

December 15, 1963

The American Society of Hematology assembled in the Sixth Annual Session, Washington, D. C., December 9, 1963, The Statler Hilton, 16th and K Streets, N. W., Washington, D. C.

The President (Dr. Charles A. Doan):

We are meeting today in the nation's capitol during the month of national mourning for our late President. I have asked one of our former Presidents, Dr. Carl V. Moore of St. Louis, to prepare a resolution which will express the sense of deep personal loss which all of us feel at this tragic moment in our nation's history. Will the members and guests of this Society please stand with bowed heads as we pay our solemn tribute to the memory of our great President—and remain standing for a brief moment of individual thoughtful meditation?



“John F. Kennedy brought to the political leadership of this country an almost unparalleled respect for intellectual and artistic accomplishment, an insistence on excellence, and the conviction that our future depends on the maintenance of leadership in science and technology.

“He was a modern President, the first to be a product of the twentieth century; he seemed to have instinctive awareness of the social significance of current developments in science and technology, but was haunted by the fear of a nuclear holocaust. The following quotation from his Inaugural Address is unforgettable: ‘Let both sides seek to invoke the wonders of science, instead of its terrors. Together let us explore the stars, conquer the deserts, eradicate disease, tap the ocean depths and encourage the arts and commerce.’ He was interested, as every political leader must be, in the practical application of scientific advances, but one had the feeling that his vigorous support of basic research in both the life and physical sciences stemmed from the understanding of a scholar and highly trained intellect.

“We here must share with the scientific community and the Nation as a whole, the mourning and the profound sense of shame that such stupid, vindictive and irresponsible acts as surrounded his death can still happen in our society. At the same time, we can give thanks and express profound appreciation for Mr. Kennedy’s insistence that education and intellectual growth are indispensable to the nation’s welfare and safety, for his unflinching support of higher education and research, for his devotion to perfection and freedom. We are immeasurably richer to have had him for a leader, even for only three brief years.

“Mr. President, may I suggest that this statement be recorded in the minutes of our Society as an expression of great appreciation by the American Society of Hematology of President Kennedy’s stimulating influence on all academic and scientific life in the United States.”

Carl V. Moore, M.D., Past President