The Leagues Remember

The Late John F. Kennedy Sought
AJLA Representation at Major Meetings on Social Problems

JOHN F. KENNEDY was a man with more than a passing interest in art, culture, youth, social problems—in fact, so many of the areas to which the Junior League is devoted.

As a Senator, he conducted a workshop on public affairs for Junior League delegates to AJLA’s 36th Annual Conference held in May of 1958. Among other things, the young Senator stressed the importance of public opinion on legislation. He asked that groups such as the Junior Leagues keep adequately informed on all types of pending legislation in the public interest. “It is in the national interest,” he told the delegates, “that you support Senators who cast their votes for the good of the country as a whole.”

President Kennedy’s interest in the work of the Leagues continued strongly after his election to the White House. He called upon the Association of Junior Leagues to send representatives to several meetings in the public interest. Among them were the President’s Committee for the Employment of the Handicapped, the formation of a program to form the National Service Corps, the President’s Council on the Fitness of Youth, and a special meeting of influential women to discuss civil rights.

The shock of our late President’s assassination has struck deeply into the thinking of all Americans—no matter what their political affiliation. Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to his family in their time of bereavement and readjustment. President Kennedy’s dynamic and effective leadership had an impact upon the programs of the Junior Leagues, directly and indirectly. The memory of his deep interest will have a lasting impact upon our future activities.

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