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Seeley G. Mudd Manuscript Library
65 Olden Street
Princeton, NJ 08540
609-258-6345
609-258-3385 (fax)
mudd@princeton.edu
We're puttin' on our top hat,
Tyin' up our white tie,
Brushin' off our tails,
In order to
Wish you

A Merry Christmas

Rip, Leem, Ken.
Please return to
Frederic Pen
7414 Lynn Grove
Chevy Chase, MD.

2 7/8" x 4 1/8"

2 1/2" N
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY
PRINCETON: NEW JERSEY

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT ON APPLICANT

To be filled out by the principal or head-master and mailed before April 1 to the DIRECTOR OF ADMISSION, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey.

DEAR SIR:

Mr. John Fitzgerald Kennedy from your school has applied for admission to Princeton University. In addition to entrance examination records, the Committee on Admission attaches great importance to the testimony of principals and teachers as to the character and general ability of applicants and therefore hopes that you will give fully and frankly the information requested in this Report. Whatever information is received will be filed in the office of the Director of Admission and will be accessible for use only to Administrative Officers.

[Signature]
Radicke Heermance
Director of Admission

Certificate

I vouch for the moral character of this applicant and certify that the following record is correct.

DATE: MAR 18 1935

City: Wallingford
State: Connecticut

Principal The Choate School

(Over)

MAR 19 1935

FEB 1 - 1935

FORM TWO
1. Applicant has attended your school from .................. 1934 to .................. 1935.

2. Will he probably receive a certificate of graduation at the end of this school year? Yes. If not, please state reasons: .................................................................


4. Mental Ability:
   (a) In which quarter of his class does he rank in scholarship? Third.
   (b) Is he an unusually good student, or an average student, or slow and persistent, or generally poor? Average.
   (c) Is this record a true index of his capacity, or have outside work, illness, or other circumstances interfered in any way? Severe illness last year and continued need for more weight may be a handicap.
   (d) What subjects is he now studying at your school? English, French, Physics, History.
   (e) Has he exhibited special mental qualifications or unusual ability in one or more subjects which would qualify him for high-standing sections in certain college courses? No.
   (f) What honors has he won in literary or scholastic pursuits? .................................................................
   (g) Do you recommend him as able and willing to do college work? Yes.

5. Character:
   (a) Has his entire record with you been such that you would place full confidence in his integrity? Yes.
   (b) Has he been subject to discipline or censure of any sort during the present school year for deficiency in scholarship or for misconduct? No.
   (c) Has his record in your school been in any way unsatisfactory? No.

6. Has he any physical defects or constitutional weaknesses which affect scholastic attainment? No.

7. Any student who is not reasonably proficient in the writing of correct and idiomatic English prose will be required to take an extra course in corrective English in college. Will this candidate's English teachers certify that he is reasonably proficient in the writing of correct and idiomatic English prose, or do they feel that, if admitted, he might profitably take our special course, English A, Practice in Writing?
   Certified Yes. Extra course recommended.
8. Please give below a transcript of his record for the last four school years:

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What is your certification grade? 70%  Please give explanation of system of marking.

Passing Grade 65%
Honour Grade 90%

For the information of the Admission Committee, and especially for the guidance of the Committee having charge of the assignment of Freshmen to advanced sections, it is most important that an estimate be made of the approximate position of this candidate in his class (i.e., approximately 5 in a class of 30; 7 in a class of 82, etc.).

Candidate stands approximately 65 in a class of 130. - 2.2 1/2 (Over)
General Estimate

The Committee on Admission desires as full and accurate an estimate as possible of this applicant as regards his industry, initiative, perseverance, sense of honor, reliability, force of character and influence on his fellow students, based on the record he has made in his academic work and in the general life of the school. Please write your estimate below.

Jack has rather superior mental ability without the deep interest in his studies or the mature viewpoint that demands of him his best effort all the time. He can be relied upon to do enough to pass. We have been and are working our hardest to develop Jack's own self-interest, great enough in social life, to the point that will assure him a record in college more worthy his natural gifts of intelligence, likableness, and popularity. Jack is Business Manager of the Brief.

Son of the Chairman of S.E.C.
Plenty of ability but immature and does not work very hard. Will probably study Economics and French at Univ. of London for one year before entering Princeton. Attitude personally.

It is further desired that you give your estimate of his physical vigor, based on his record of general health and in athletics, including any mental qualities or emotional characteristics, the knowledge of which would enable us the better to understand and guide him.

Part of Jack's lack of intellectual drive is doubtless due to a severe illness suffered in the Winter of his Fifth Form year. Though he has recovered, his vitality has been below par, he has not been allowed to enter into any very vigorous athletics, and has not, probably, been able to work under full pressure. There is no reason to suppose, however, that Jack will not come up to par soon.

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**Activities**

**Summer Session**

**Summer Reading Course**
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY
PRINCETON: NEW JERSEY

APPLICANT'S BLANK

To be filled out in applicant's own handwriting (not typewritten)
and mailed to the Director of Admission
Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey, before April 1

1. Name in full: Kennedy John Fitzgerald

2. Home address: Street and number: 294 Princefield Road

3. Place of birth: Boston Date of birth: May 24, 1917 Religious affiliation: Catholic

4. (a) Father's name in full: Joseph Patrick Kennedy
   Living or deceased?: Living
   (b) Father native born American citizen?: Yes
   Or naturalized?: No
   (c) Father's occupation: Chairman of Securities and Exchange Commission
   (d) Father a college graduate?: Yes What college and class?: Harvard - 1912
   (e) Mother's maiden name: Rose Fitzgerald
   Living or deceased?: Living
   (f) Mother a college graduate?: No What college and class?:

5. Are you an applicant for any scholarship, or loan, or self-help earnings at Princeton?: No

Note: If such assistance is essential, separate application must be made to the Director of Appointments and Student Employment, Nassau Hall, on or before May first of the year of entrance.

6. What school or schools have you attended during the past four years? Give length of stay and name of principal or headmaster in each case:
The Choate School - 4 years - Mr. St. John

7. (a) Do you intend to enter by Plan A (Restricted Examinations) or Plan B (Comprehensive Examinations)? If by Plan A state how many College Entrance Examination Board credits, if any, you have and in what subjects?
   Plan B

   (b) Are you a candidate for the degree of Bachelor of Arts (A.B.)?: Yes
   Are you a candidate for the degree of Bachelor of Science in Engineering (B.S.Eng.)?: No

   (c) Have you made any decision as to the profession or business you expect to enter after graduation from college? If so, please indicate it: Banking

FEB 1 1935 FORM ONE MAR 19 1935 (over)
Upper Class Fields of Study

Check below those departments of instruction in which you might become interested in junior and senior years. Express your interests broadly, as it is desirably to arrange now a program of studies which continues all fields of your present interests and also allows you to sample new fields. The choices which you indicate now are tentative, not final.

☐ Art and Archaeology ☐ Economics and Social Institutions
☐ School of Architecture ☐ History
☐ Classics ☐ Politics ☐ Astronomy
☐ English ☐ School of Public and International Affairs ☐ Biology
☐ Modern Languages and Literatures ☐ Chemistry ☐ Geology
☐ Oriental Languages and Literatures ☐ Mathematics ☐ Physics
☐ Philosophy ☐ Psychology
☐ Chemical Engineering
☐ Civil
☐ Electrical
☐ Mechanical
☐ Mining
N.B. See bottom of opposite page for plan of study for engineering students in freshman year

Program of Study, Freshman Year, for Candidates for the A.B. Degree

Keeping in mind the two requirements for a degree which must be met not later than the end of sophomore year (see pamphlet of instructions p. 5), check below five courses only which you propose to take in freshman year. Do not hesitate to check advanced courses. Express your wishes. Permission to take advanced courses will be granted if your school supports your request and if all the evidence before us indicates that you will carry this work successfully. If you wish to indicate additional courses as alternates for restricted or advanced courses please write in the alternates at the foot of page indicating the course for which each is an alternate. Pre-medical students should follow closely suggestions for their program as outlined in the pamphlet of instructions.

English—(Freshman)
☐ 101a-102a—Literature and Composition
☐ 101b-102b—Literature and Public Speaking

History—(Freshman)
☐ 101-102—Fundamental Problems in the History of Civilization
☐ 103-104—Introduction to English History
(Advised for students planning to major in English.)

Greek—(Freshman)
☐ 101-102—Beginners’ Course
☐ 103-104—Selections from the Iliad
(Open only to candidates who have not passed Greek Cp3 for entrance)

{111—Plato
☐ 111—Plato (Open only to candidates who have passed Greek Cp3 for entrance)
☐ 112—Herodotus and Euripides
(2nd term) Completes requirement for the A.B. degree for those not meeting the requirement in Latin or Mathematics.

Latin—(Freshman)
☐ 105-106—Sallust and Ovid (1st term), Vergil (2nd term)
(Open only to candidates who have not passed Cicero and Vergil for entrance)
☐ 113-114—Terence and Pliny
(1st term), Poets
(2nd term)
(Courses with literary emphasis)
☐ 115-116—Livy
(1st term), Tacitus
(2nd term)
(Courses with historical and legal emphasis)

English—(Sophomore)
☐ 201—Shakespeare (1st term)
☐ 202—Victorian Poets
(2nd term)
(Open only to candidates with excellent records in English at school)

History—(Sophomore)
☐ 201-202—Modern European History from the French Revolution to the Present.
☐ 203-204—European History from the beginning of the Middle Ages to the French Revolution

Greek—(Sophomore)
☐ 201—Tragedy (1st term)
☐ 202—Odyssey
(2nd term)
(Open only to candidates with marked ability in Greek whose preparation has carried them beyond the requirements of Greek Cp3)

Latin—(Sophomore)
☐ 203—Horace
(1st term)
☐ 204—Drama, Pastoral, Elegy
(2nd term)
(Open to candidates with excellent records in Latin in school)

Note: Latin 113-114, and 115-116 are alternative courses open to candidates who have passed Cicero and Vergil for entrance. Either course completes five units of Latin.
**Program of Study, Freshman Year, for Candidates for the A.B. Degree (continued)**

**Modern Languages**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Beginners</th>
<th>Intermediate (Open only to candidates who have passed Cp2)</th>
<th>Advanced (Open only to candidates who have passed Cp3 or made excellent records in Cp2)</th>
<th>Literature (Open only to candidates who have passed Cp4 or made excellent records in Cp3)</th>
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<td>101-102—Italian</td>
<td>301-302—Italian</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Mathematics—(Freshman)**

- 101-102—Plane Trigonometry, Coordinate Geometry and Calculus (Open only to candidates who have not passed Plane Trigonometry for entrance)
- 107-108—Coordinate Geometry and Calculus (Open to candidates who have passed Mathematics E and B or D (CpH); completes the requirement for the A.B. degree for those not offering Latin or Greek.

**Mathematics—(Sophomore)**

- 201-202—Calculus (based on 101, 102)
- 207-208—Calculus (based on 107-108)
- 209-210—Algebra and Algebraic Geometry

**Chemistry**

- 101b, 102b—General introductory course without laboratory work. Not designed for continuing students.
- 101a, 102a—General introductory technical course including laboratory work.
- 105a, 104a—Advanced general chemistry and elementary qualitative analysis. (For students offering Chemistry for entrance. 104b is organized in February for students of exceptional ability.)
- 105, 106—Chemistry of the metals and qualitative analysis. Open to students admitted with honors in Chemistry. Admits to certain junior courses in sophomore year.

**Physics—(Freshman)**

- 101-102—General Physics (Open to students who have not studied Physics in school.)
- 109-110—Electricity and Matter (Open only to candidates who have studied Physics in school and are electing a freshman course in Mathematics.)

**Architectural Drawing**

- 101-102—See pamphlet of instructions

**Military Science**

- 101-102—Basic course in Field Artillery. Must be taken for two years to receive any credit, i.e. 101-102 must be followed by the sophomore course 201-202.

**Sophomore Electives (See pamphlet of instructions)**

- Art 201-202—History of Architecture
- Biology 201-202—General Biology
- Economics 201-202—Elements of Economics
- Geology 201-202—Introduction to Geology
- Philosophy 201-202—Introduction to Philosophy
- Politics 201-202—American and European Government
- Psychology 201-202—Introduction to Psychology

**Program of Study, Freshman Year, for Candidates for the B.S. in E. Degree**

- Mathematics 107-108 (Required)
- Modern Language (Check above)
  - German for chemical engineering
  - French or German for other courses
- Chemistry 101a, 103a or 105 (Check above)
- English 101a (Required)
- Engineering Drawing 131 (Required)

(SEE OVER)
Give below the names and addresses of three persons, not your teachers nor your relatives, to whom we may apply for further information about you if such information is desired.

References

Name: Mr. Edward S. Moore  Address: Hotel Chatham, New York City
Name: T. Francis Belluno  Address: Balliol College, Oxford, England

Give below as complete a statement as possible of the reasons that led you to select Princeton as your college, and state what special advantages you expect to gain from a course at Princeton.

My desire to come to Princeton is prompted by a number of reasons. I feel that it can give me a better back ground and training than any other university, and can give me a true liberal education. Even since I entered school, I have had the ambition to enter Princeton, and I sincerely hope I can reach my goal. Then too, I feel the environment of Princeton is second to none, and cannot but help having a good effect on me. To be a Princeton Man is indeed an enviable distinction.

Date: March 9, 1935  Signature: John F. Kennedy
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

PRINCIPAL'S FINAL REPORT ON APPLICANT

DEAR SIR:

Will you be good enough to fill in below the marks attained in your school in June by—

John Fitzgerald Kennedy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUBJECTS OF STUDY</th>
<th>PERIODS PER WEEK</th>
<th>GRADE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English, Fourth Year</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French, Fourth Year</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History, English</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We have a record of this applicant up to the date of your previous report filed in the early Spring. This report merely covers the work of the final term.

Graduated *Number 64 in a class of 112

[Signature]
Frank C. Wheeler
Head Master

* For the information of the Admission Committee, and especially for the guidance of the Committee having charge of the assignment of Freshmen to advanced sections and to Sophomore courses, it is most important that an estimate be made of the approximate position of this candidate in his class (i.e., approximately 5 in a class of 30; 32 in a class of 120, etc.).

Date June 1, 1935

Choate.
December 4, 1957

Mr. Ralph A. Dungan, Jr.
7213 Landess Street
Alexandria, Virginia

Dear Ralph:

Mr. Munro is asking Senator Kennedy to speak to the graduate students, their wives, and a few guests on March 17.

I note that that's St. Patrick's Day and it seems appropriate although that date was not picked with that fact in mind. This is one of the regular "outside speaker" evenings which you will remember were held while we were here in a rather haphazard fashion. They have been considerably more formalized now and are held every Monday evening and are a required part of the program for the graduate students.

Will you please use your good offices in urging the Senator to do this chore if he possibly can? As Mr. Munro indicated in his letter, we are also asking Senator Smith of New Jersey to talk to us to give the Republican slant on any major question which interests him.

I hope that all goes well with you and Mary and the time must be approaching for the new Dungan to put in an appearance. Barbara and I send our best wishes to all of you. Maybe the Senator could be prevailed upon to bring you along with him when he comes and we can all wear the green together.

Sincerely,

R. W. van de Velde
Assistant to the Director

RvW:dhl
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 30, 1962

Dear Dr. Coheen:

I regret very much that I shall not be able to join you and other distinguished citizens who will honor this year's recipients of the Rockefeller Public Service Awards at lunch on December 6. I do, however, look forward to meeting with the Award winners in my office that morning.

In many ways, the problems of our Government have been emphasized in the press during the past year and particularly during this autumn. But it is unfortunately true that the general public remains largely unaware of the complex machinery of its government and unaware of the dedicated men and women who make that machinery work. The men you will be honoring at luncheon on the 6th exemplify the very best of those in the career services who make it possible for the Government leaders to develop and execute the policies of state at home and abroad.

John D. Rockefeller 3rd, whose interest in strengthening the public service made this program possible and Princeton University for administering it as a national trust, deserve the congratulations and sincere thanks of the nation. You are materially helping to bring recognition to the thousands of able and devoted public servants who do so much, and so often without acclaim, toward keeping the United States healthy and strong.

I hope this splendid program will long continue.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Dr. Robert F. Coheen
President
Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

My dear Mr. Laughlin:

Dean Reedamce asked me to reply to your letter about John Fitzgerald Kennedy.

Evidently Kennedy had his grades sent to Harvard as you suggest, and we can, of course, do nothing in the matter until he has his grades forwarded to us from that institution.

If he wishes his grades sent to Princeton he should immediately request someone in the admissions office to forward his certificate to Princeton and also his grades on the Scholastic Aptitude Test.

It was too bad that you had to go off to Pittsburgh almost immediately after arriving at your summer place. The hot weather has continued persistently up to yesterday when we got a brief reprieve, but the papers announce there is another hot wave on the way.

With warm regards,

Very sincerely yours,

Assistant to Director.

Mr. Leslie I. Laughlin
Hyannis Port,
Massachusetts

#P
I mentioned to you the case of Jack Kennedy, a candidate from
Harvard for both Harvard and Princeton. What paper wants in Harvard. We
want to transfer to Princeton and ask what either we would take him
if he is accepted by Harvard. (you will find his letter on file.)
Will you write Miss McCutcheon what
preparations should follow if he
gets a letter of admission from
Harvard? I am sincerely, etc.
Dear Dad:

I sent a blood test about describing your before we had finished but enough candidates for September consideration. Next year I will arrange my plans to stay until the work is completed satisfactorily.

I got back to find a telegram asking me to be in Pittsburgh Sunday morning, which seemed only a brief reporter for the week.
March 23, 1936

Kennedy:

Bachelor of arts
1935

English;
French 4;
Physics;
History C;
Scholastic Aptitude Test.

John Fitzgerald Kennedy
John Fitzgerald Kennedy
The Choate School

Suggested Plan B Examinations -
- English
- French IV
- Physics
- History C
October 21, 1935.

My dear Dean Gauss:

The Committee on Admission have been requested by Mr. Paul Murphy, Secretary to Mr. Joseph P. Kennedy, to send you a statement of the record made by John Fitzgerald Kennedy in the Board examinations last June. This boy was admitted under Plan B in June 1935, after having obtained his preparation in the Choate School. According to the school record presented for him, he had four years of English, two years of Latin, four years of French, two years of Algebra, one year of Plane Geometry, one year of Ancient History, one year of English History, and one year of Physics. The Committee on Admission do not give the specific grades obtained by an admitted Plan B candidate, but they do indicate where Honors (80-89) or Highest Honors (90-100) have been obtained. Mr. Kennedy, I am glad to tell you, received Honors in English and English History. In his two remaining subjects (French 4 and Physics), his work was unsatisfactory. His weighted examination average was sixty-eight.

If this does not give you the information that you wish, please let me know.

Sincerely yours,

Anne Macdonald

Dean Christian Gauss
Princeton College
Princeton, New Jersey
October 22nd, 1935

Dear Miss MacDonal:

A chap by the name of John Fitzgerald Kennedy who graduated from the Choate School in June, is now re-applying for admission to Princeton. He has been on our list for some time but then I think transferred his allegiance to Harvard and finally decided to go to the University of London. He is returning from England this week and has asked for re-consideration from Princeton. Do you mind sending me the grades that he received on his Plan B examinations taken in June 1935, also the Scholastic Aptitude Test record.

Faithfully yours,

Radcliffe Heermance.

Miss Anne MacDonal
Office of Committee on Admissions
University Hall
Harvard University
Cambridge, Massachusetts

RH:ED
To Dean Gauss

From Dr. Raycroft

Subject John Fitzgerald Kennedy '39

December 13, 1935

Dear Christian:

You are probably familiar with the interesting case of John Fitzgerald Kennedy, '39. We have been in touch with his doctors ever since he came here and it now appears advisable for him to withdraw from the University for the purpose of having such examinations and treatment as his condition may require in the hope that he will improve sufficiently to return as a Freshman next fall. This arrangement for withdrawal should be dated December 12th.

Faithfully yours,

[Signature]

cc Dean Heermance
June 1st, 1936.

Dear Jack:

I hope that by now the doctors have been able to treat you successfully for your trouble; that you have entirely recovered your health and that you will be back at Princeton in the fall.

If you are returning I thought it would be wise to find out whether you want to take exactly the same courses that you started out with this year, which were English 101a, French 201, Mathematics 101, History 103, Military Science. The Mathematics course is required, but the other four are all optional.

I am enclosing an Applicant's Blank. You need not fill out again the first and last pages, but on the inside pages are the courses open to you. I am also sending you the little pamphlet that describes these courses.

If you are to be with us in the fall will you kindly make your selection and return same to me at your convenience.

Sincerely yours,

Leslie I. Laughlin.

Mr. John F. Kennedy
294 Sandfield Road
Bronxville, New York

L: P
July 9th, 1936

My dear Mr. Kennedy:

Your application for readmission as a member of the class of 1940 has been accepted, and in order that you may participate in the room drawings which will be held on or about August tenth, I am enclosing the necessary material.

If for any reason you can not accept readmission next fall, will you please be good enough to let me know at once?

With all best wishes,

Very sincerely yours,

Assistant to Director.

Mr. John F. Kennedy,
294 Pondfield Road,
Bronxville, New York.

W:AM
Mr. Donald W. Griffin  
307 Nassau Hall  
Princeton, N. J.

Dear Don:

I am under the impression that John F. Kennedy was at Princeton for a few weeks only in the fall of 1935. Although theoretically a member of the Class of 1939, he has never maintained an active interest in Class affairs—or, to the best of my knowledge, Princeton affairs. He transferred to Harvard after leaving Princeton, and graduated from there.

For this reason I feel that he should no longer be carried on our Class roll, and will appreciate your making arrangements for removing his name from 1939's active list.

Sincerely,

Bud

F. L. Redpath

Mr. John Fitzgerald Kennedy, GS-39  
Hotel Bellevue,  
21 Beacon Street,  
Boston, Mass.

Dropped at request of Class Secretary,  
8/20/46.
Mr. Frederick L. Redpath, Secretary,
Princeton University Class of 1939,
107 Maplewood Avenue,
Maplewood, N. J.

Dear Mr. Redpath:

This is to acknowledge and thank you for your letter of November 20th.

While I will always have a very tender spot in my heart for old Nassau, the fact that I spent most of my college time at Harvard prevents me from dipping the crimson banner. I am sure that it would be much more appropriate for the Class Committee to have only those whose sole interest is in Princeton listed on its roster. Thus, I would reluctantly ask you to drop my name from the 1939 Class Roll.

Thanking you for your good wishes, and with kind personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

John F. Kennedy
Mr. John F. Kennedy
Hotel Bellevue
21 Beacon Street
Boston, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Kennedy:

We have been going over the class roster lately in order to determine what members can still be considered on the active roll of the Class of 1939. We have assumed that since you were with us for a few months only at Princeton, and since you later graduated from Harvard, that your college loyalties very understandably center on Harvard rather than Princeton.

Therefore, your name will be dropped from the class roll, unless you feel that you would like to continue your active interest in the Princeton Alumni body.

With all good wishes for your success with particular reference to your approaching assignment in Congress, I am

Sincerely,

Frederick L. Redpath
Secretary
December 3, 1957

Senator John F. Kennedy
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Kennedy:

The Graduate Program of the Woodrow Wilson School schedules each month a public affairs lecture-discussion by an outstanding figure in American public life. This series reflects the interest of the School in following Woodrow Wilson's mandate to bring the air of public affairs into the classroom.

Recent programs have included such distinguished guests as Chester Bowles, Ralph Bunche, George Kennan, Indian Ambassador Mehte, J. Robert Oppenheimer, and the late Chief Justice Vanderbilt.

The lecture-discussions are completely off the record, the audience is made up of the thirty-five or so members of the Graduate Program of the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, and a few guests. Informality is the key. Guests generally begin with twenty to thirty minutes of introductory remarks. This is followed by questions and informal discussion.

The graduate students and the staff of the School are unanimous in their desire to have you as a guest speaker. We know how busy your schedule is, but you must know how much it means to young men planning careers in public life to have an opportunity to meet and talk with men like yourself.

We should like to schedule your appearance for Monday evening, March 17. The specific discussion topic would be designated by you but we would hope that it would be within the general area of the Democratic outlook on any issue of moment in national or international affairs in which you are particularly interested. We are asking Senator H. Alexander Smith to speak to us on another evening on some topic of interest to him from the Republican point of view.
We shall be happy, of course, to take care of your travel expenses and overnight arrangements at Princeton. In addition, the University authorizes a modest honorarium of $50.00 which is proffered not as compensation but as a token of appreciation for a truly important educational service rendered.

We do hope you can be with us. If you find you can fit this into your schedule, I shall let you know exact details of time and place.

Very sincerely yours,

Dane G. Munro

DGM:dhl
December 17, 1957

Dana G. Munro
Director
Woodrow Wilson School
Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

Dear Mr. Munro:

Many thanks for your letter of recent date inviting me to speak on the Graduate Program of the Woodrow Wilson School on Monday, March 17.

I certainly appreciate your writing me and I would like very much to be with you at that time. Unfortunately, however, I have a previous commitment for that date and therefore, much as I regret it, it will be impossible for me to accept your very kind invitation. I am extremely sorry about this and I want you to know how grateful I am for your thinking of me.

Wishing you a very Happy Holiday Season, I am

Sincerely yours,

John F. Kennedy

JFK:el
Schlesinger and John F. Kennedy

The professional historian, as a rule, depends on research for his knowledge of the past; because he was not there to witness history, he has to look for it in books, documents, newspapers and manuscripts. In this issue we are proud to publish the first of a series by a professional historian who, well-grounded in the past, was present when his history was made and even had a hand in making it. He is Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr. and the articles are taken from his forthcoming book, *A Thousand Days: John F. Kennedy in the White House* (Houghton Mifflin).

When Kennedy launched his 1960 presidential campaign, Schlesinger, like his father before him, was a well-known professor at Harvard. He had won a Pulitzer prize for *Jackson* in 1946 (when he was only 28 years old), been made associate professor in 1946 and professor in 1954. A liberal (he was a founder of the Americans for Democratic Action in 1947), a prolific writer (now working on a seven-volume *The Age of Roosevelt*) and a man of boundless energy, he shared the late President's love of good conversation. He had campaigned hard for Stevenson and in 1959, at Kennedy's request, he left Harvard to campaign hard for Kennedy. The two became close friends and Schlesinger followed Kennedy to the White House as Special Assistant to the President.

"Princeton had not greatly impressed (JFK) ..." says Harvard man. It is hard to judge how much John Fitzgerald Kennedy's formal education mattered. He spent only one year at a Catholic school, Canterbury in Connecticut. He then went on to Choate, which he disliked heartily. He finished only slightly above the middle of his class. His father sent him to the London School of Economics, hoping to expose him to Harold Laski. Instead Kennedy exposed himself to jaundice and had to drop out at London and delay his planned entry into Princeton. After a few weeks at Princeton a recurrence of jaundice sent him back to bed. Princeton had not greatly impressed him, and the next fall [1936] he entered Harvard.
Mr. Frederic Fox
28 Vandeventer Ave.
Princeton, N. J.

Dear Fred:

Thanks a lot for sending along the rather depressing pictures. I must say it gives me a bit of nostalgia to see South Reunion coming down because we had a lot of fun there. However, you were very thoughtful to take the pictures. It was interesting to see the article in the Sunday Times Advertiser. They do overdo a bit the feeling of despair and poverty that permeates our rooms. Actually, it was a very pleasant, airy suite. I must admit, however, that there were some pretty cold nights up there.

I was upset by Arthur Schlesinger saying that "President Kennedy was not impressed with Princeton." I think that it was really a terrible thing for him to say. For the record, the President never said anything derogatory about Princeton. He had great admiration for the University. As a matter of fact, between you and me, it is the one remaining University where the President was hopeful he would be honored with an honorary degree. I wish it were possible to give him an honorary degree there posthumously. As we all know, he had every intention of staying at Princeton. It was only because of his health that he dropped out. He recuperated from what was probably hepatitis in Arizona, and then, due to the fact that he would be a year behind his friends, entered Harvard the next fall. I feel so strongly about what Arthur wrote that I am attaching for your interest, my letter to him.

I certainly look forward to meeting with you, so that we can decide what the next step should be in regard to possibly placing the President's room permanently in 1939 Hall. I can't tell you how much I appreciate all your help in this matter.

With best regards,

P. S. I had to send the Sunday Times Advertiser to Arthur. If you have another around, I'd certainly like to send it a copy.
July 21, 1965

Mr. Arthur Schlesinger, Jr.
1180 18 St., N. W
Washington, D. C.

Dear Arthur:

I want to congratulate you on your book. It's so good it makes me sad to read it.

I do feel badly, however, that you say, and I quote: "After a few weeks at Princeton a recurring jaundice sent him back to bed. Princeton had not greatly impressed him and the next fall he entered Harvard".

First of all - he was at Princeton nearly 3 months - but that is not important. Actually, the facts are that he had a great deal of respect for the University, so much so, that he told me shortly before he died that Princeton was the only remaining University from which he hoped he could receive an honorary degree.

Your remark comes at a difficult time for those Princeton men who wish to preserve his room and are currently raising funds to do so to rebuild it in 1939 Hall. I am enclosing an article about this.

I feel badly that I must write to you to complain about what would seem to be so unimportant a remark. You can understand my concern, particularly since this was far from his attitude toward Princeton. Aside from this, I can't tell you how much I've liked what I have read in your work so far.

I understand you wouldn't have anticipated that such a statement could be harmful. I'm sure after reading my letter you'll realize that actually the President's attitude toward Princeton was an excellent one. Any comment you could write to rectify this situation will be much appreciated.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

K. LeMoyne Billings
Vice President
Dear Freddie,

He already heard from Arthur Schlesinger. He
mentioned me a few minutes ago. He is very sorry that he
missed me a few minutes ago.

He is very sorry that he
mentioned that incident about
Princeton in his book. He
does say he heard it from someone
in the family, but he now
realizes it was wrong so he
is removing it from the book.
Which I know is not published
yet, so you can tell anyone
who asks that it was a mistake.
Halsey

for the "JFN Record,"

Harvard Prof. Schlesinger

admits a mistake.
Mr. J. M. Whitcomb  
479 Common Street  
Dedham Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Whitcomb,

John Fitzgerald Kennedy of Bronxville, New York, entered Princeton in the fall of 1935 with the class of 1939; he withdrew 12 December 1935 because of ill health. He roomed in suite 9 in the south entry of Reunion Hall with two other men from Choate School: Ralph Horton Jr. '39 and Kirk LeMoyne Billings '39. Both Horton and Billings are listed in our records as engaged in manufacturing, Horton in Syracuse, and Billings in New York City.

During the Kennedy campaign in 1960 both men served as regional coordinators, Billings in the Dakotas, Wisconsin, and Nebraska, Horton in Nebraska. Billings is a trustee of the National Cultural Center in Washington and the Kennedy Library, to be built in Cambridge. Horton was an usher at Kennedy's wedding, and Kennedy an usher at his wedding.

Sincerely yours,
25 Dec. 1964

Department of African Affairs,
Princeton University,
Princeton, N.J.

Dear Sir:

I should be interested to know where the late President A.A. Nkrumah
served when he was a student at Princeton. Also, I should be
certain to learn the name(s) of
promator(s) of any work with
his... and of the late prime
involved in the President's political
life as dictator or President.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

[Handwritten note: William, 12 Dec. 1985]

[Signature]
May 21, 1963

Mr. H. G. Jones
615 Ormewood Avenue, S.E.
Atlanta 12, Georgia

Dear Mr. Jones:

The information that we can supply you on John F. Kennedy, during his stay at Princeton, is really quite insignificant. Mr. Kennedy began his career here in September of 1935 as a member of the Class of 1939. A little more than two months later - on December 5, 1935 - ill health required him to withdraw. Since this was his freshman year, he had no major courses and, of course, his work was incomplete so that no valid conclusions can be drawn as to his scholarship or academic abilities. After resting and recovering his health for the balance of the year, Princeton University again admitted him - this time to the Class of 1940. He did not appear on campus with the Class of 1940 and it is my understanding that he finished his academic career at Harvard.

Health records for that period are not now available so I am unable to answer the very logical next question as to the condition which required his withdrawal for reasons of health. While sending you this very meager information on his stay here, I feel sure that his other schools can supply many additional facts. I wish you well with your thesis.

Sincerely,

J. G. Bradshaw, Secretary

JGB:mpy