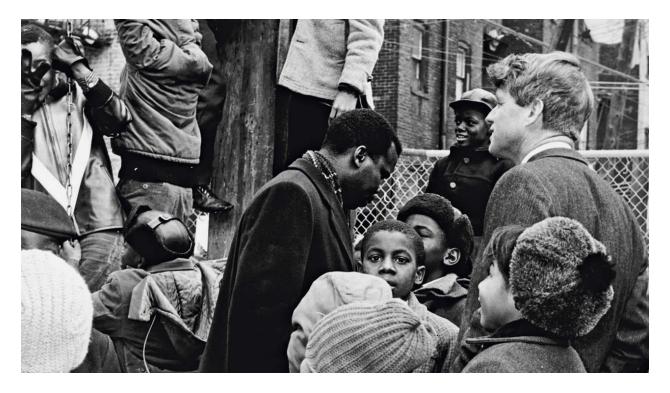
The Final Journey: Bobby Kennedy [B2]

Nel giugno del 1968, un treno di ventuno carrozze portò la salma di Robert F. Kennedy da New York a Washington. Pochi giorni prima era stato assassinato. Lungo i 360 chilometri di tragitto, folle di migliaia di cittadini diedero l'ultimo addio a un politico considerato portavoce delle minoranze più svantaggiate.



Robert Francis Kennedy is perhaps less well-known than John Fitzgerald Kennedy, US president from 1961 until his assassination in 1963. However, ask any American over sixty where they were on 8 June 1968, and they will tell you.

US ATTORNEY GENERAL

Born in 1925, Robert, better-known as Bobby, was the seventh of nine children of the prominent political Kennedy family. As a lawyer, he fought organised crime and earned a reputation as

an <u>uncompromising prosecutor</u>. With his older brother in the White House, Bobby was <u>appointed</u> US <u>Attorney General</u>. He served as the President's

closest <u>advisor</u>, taking part in major decisions, including the Cuban Missile Crisis, the resolution of which <u>averted</u> nuclear war with the USSR.

CIVIL RIGHTS

After John F. Kennedy was assassinated, Bobby discarded the <u>tough</u> image he had cultivated and began to advocate for issues related to civil rights and social justice. He opposed US <u>involvement</u> in the Vietnam War and <u>raised awareness</u> of poverty in the country, <u>sponsoring</u> legislation to bring businesses to impoverished communities.

BOBBY FOR PRESIDENT

In 1968, Bobby took the risky step of <u>challenging</u> Lyndon Johnson, the <u>incumbent</u> president of his own party, the Democrats. New York Senator at the time, Bobby became a leading candidate for the Democratic nomination for president, <u>appealing</u> to poor, African-American, Hispanic and young voters. When Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in April 1968, Bobby asked King's followers not to respond with <u>hatred</u>, and his empathy earned their respect.

SHOT IN ACTION

On 5 June 1968, just after winning the California primary, Kennedy was shot three times <u>at close range</u> at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles, and died a day later. The shooter was twenty-four-year-old Palestinian Sirhan Sirhan, in <u>alleged retaliation</u> for Kennedy's support of Israel. But Bobby's assassination, like that of his brother, continues to be the subject of controversy.

THE FUNERAL TRAIN

On 8 June 1968, after his funeral in New York, the body of the senator was taken by train to Washington D.C. destined for <u>burial</u> at Arlington National Cemetery. The journey usually took four hours, but the train travelled at half

the speed because hundreds of thousands of people had **gathered** on **station platforms** and **by the tracks**. The photographer Paul Fusco was among the passengers on the train. The pictures he took, compiled in a book published in 2000, stand as a testament to the human impact of a world-changing event.

Glossary

- by the tracks = lungo le vie
- uncompromising = inflessibile, incorruttibile
- involvement = coinvolgimento
- raised awareness = sensibilizzare
- at close range = da vicino
- prosecutor = procuratore
- averted = evitare
- **sponsoring** = proporre
- alleged = presunta
- station platforms = corsie
- Attorney General = procuratore generale
- incumbent = incarica
- hatred = odio
- challenging = sfidare
- appealing = attrarre
- retaliation = rappresaglia
- burial = sepoltura
- gathered = riunirsi
- appointed = nominare
- advisor = consigliere
- tough = dura, fredda