

vidual Presidential memorials tied incongruously to research facilities and maintained at Federal expense into numbing budgetary infinity. The difficult resolution of the controversy over the Kennedy Library makes increasingly clear the pressing need to amend an ill-considered law.

## Presidential Library

The Kennedy Library cliffhanger is over—after a dozen years of controversy that has left an unfortunate residue of bitterness for all involved. The frustration of the family of the late President John F. Kennedy and the disappointment of Harvard University at losing the facilities are understandable; and it is unfortunate that legitimate issues of concept and planning—never resolved on the Harvard site—led to such destructive delays.

But the decision to build both the library and the museum on the University of Massachusetts' new Boston campus may ultimately heal all wounds. The waterfront site overlooking Boston Harbor has great potential drama and is capable of accommodating both the archives and the museum as an environmental improvement rather than as an environmental threat.

The real misfortune turns out to be not Harvard's loss of a questionable alliance of facilities but Cambridge's loss of a badly needed planning and development opportunity. The rejected site faces shoddy development or shabby status quo, and Harvard Square remains congealed squalor. There is no doubt that commercial tourist exploitation would have made things considerably worse; but the Kennedy rout is a Pyrrhic victory.

The basic problem is the legitimacy of these proliferating Presidential museums, as well as their unresolved definition and treatment, the result of Federal legislation that binds library and museum into one peculiar package. In theory they are related, but in practice the two turn out to be at opposite ends of the pole of use, appeal and purpose. This was the real source of the difficulty in Cambridge.

The prospect is of an endless parade of arbitrary, indi-