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ANTHUNY LEWIS - for the New York Timeskirk: Imagine what, might have beenlizewe re increasing our gross national product every year, building atremendous amount of wealth, ™€ the politician said, but that was not enoughfor "a country of great generosity and great spirit. I think people want tomake a contribution to others. In the last few years we've lost sight ofthat." Another time he said: "Someone wrote on the pyramids when they were being constructed, 'No one wasangry enough to speak out.' I think people should be angry enough to speakout. I think there are unfairnesses in my own country and around the world, and I think one should try to do something about it.ï¾€That was Robert Kennedy. It is hard to imagine a politician speaking thatway today: promising no boon to the voters, but challenging them to join inmeeting the problems of America and the world."Look back at where our government came from," he said - "the Greeks, withtheir idea of participation. Think of what Pericles said in his funeraloration, that we regard the individual who holds himself aloof from publicaffairs as being useless."He graduated from Harvard 50 years ago this week. Thirty years ,ago thisweek he was assassinated. In his 20 years of adult life - just 20 - he grew and changed as few of usdo, least of all politicians. He started as the hardboiled Senateinvestigator, the supposedly ruthless political strategist in his brother's presidential campaign. He ended as the man who spoke for the powerless and the abused, in Harlem and the Appalachians and Vietnam.Some thought it was President Kennedyï¾€s death that made him becomesympathetic to the victims of injustice. But it was always there. He was atenderhearted man who hid tenderness under a hard shell lest he be taken asweak. But then in so many ways he was not like other political leaders. He wasinternal, often silent, communicating his empathy without words. He wasgregarious and lonely, forceful and vulnerable, melancholy and funny, especially about himself. This Sunday the Discovery Channel on cable television will show a three-partdocumentary based on Jack Newfield's book, "Robert F. Kennedy: A Memoir." Itis a superb piece of work, bringing laughter and tears. Before he became attorney general, he said once, he had not thought aboutracial discrimination in this country. I asked him why he focused on it soforcefully after he was in the office. "There are injustices," he said, "and they are flagrant. And I have the power and responsibility to do something about them. So I intend to do It.It's quite simple." But of course it wasn't simple. Not everyone responds by committing himselfwhen he sees others experiencing cruelty; most turn away and remainuninvolved. He responded."We don't have to agree with one another," he said. "This is a country ofdiversity. But there doesn't have to be the bitterness, there doesn't haveto be the hatred, there doesn't have to be the distrust."When Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was killed, on April 4,1968, Robert Kennedywas campaigning in Indiana for the Democratic presidential nomination. Hewent to a

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