the cause of the contract of t Tolson DeLoach Mohr _ Casper Callahan Conrad **Z**ale lanchester Book Tells of Near-Panic government threw Washington into a "very red situation" the

afternoon President John F. Kennedy was assassinated, author William Manchester says.

thor William Manchesser asys.
Secretary of Defense Robert &
S. McNamara a lefted every
American military base around
the world the minute he heard
that Kennedy had been shot in
Dallas, Manchester says.

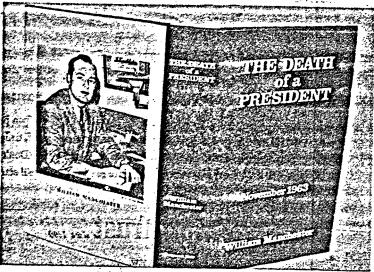
that Kennedy had been shot in Dallas, Manchester says.

Normal telephone communications in Washington were virtually blacked out as a result of a deluge of calls and this could have meant the difference between survival and defeat if there actually has been a plot on the government, Manchester writes in his book, "The Death of a President."

The much-disputed book contains 350,000 words of text, plus diagrams, appendices and a list of sources. The price is \$10.

The book goes on sale April 6. Advance publicity was embarged for April 6 but the embargo was broken today by Women's Wear Daily after a Pittsburgh store mistakenly put the book on sale.

Manchester says McNamara "kept his head and made all the right moves," even before he learned Trial Kennedy was dead. The worldwide warning told American military commanders,



with cover.

"this is the time to be espe-cially alert."

President Johnson is quoted in the book as saying "there might

be war" if Americans became aroused by suspicions that So-viet Premier Nikita Khrushchev and Cuban Time Minister Fidel

William Manchester's "Death Of A President,"

r. Castro had conspired to kill . Kennedy. It was the "wild rumors"

the Warren Commission into existence, Manchester says. The commission, after a long investigation, concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald — and Oswald alone — assassinated Kennedy. Johnson had difficulty persuading Chief Justice Earl Warren to head the inquiry, Manchester says, because Warren opposed "extracurricular activity" by Supreme Court justices.

Manchester quotes Warren as saying: "The President told me how serious the situation was. He said there had been wild rumors and there was the international situation to think of. He said he had just talked to Dean Rusk (secretary of state), who was concerned. He said that if the public became aroused against Castro and Khrushchev there might be war."

Manchester series with the

Manchester agrees with the commission's finding. He says its "real work" was done by the general counsel, J. Lee Rankin, and the 14 assistant counsels. As for the members of the commission, Manchester writes, "the lustrous names of the seven appointment ware for

wittes, tole lactous names of the seven appointees were for public consumption."

Discussing the phone trouble, he says the Army Signal Corps still has not been given the goahead to link the homes of all vital government officials to an

See BOOK, Page A-4

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The care and the first of the second of the

Callahan

even though it has the equip-

"By every readable signal, the situation was very red," Manchester writes, noting that both the president and vice president were out of Washington and six members of the Cabinet were airborne over the Pacific on a secret mission involving the Vietnam situation.

Johnson Not Briefed

chester says, Vice President was dead.

Lyndon B. Johnson did not know

A spokesn the Cabinet's whereabouts when he became President, and had never been informed about procedures to follow in the case of nuclear attack, instructions for which were contained in a football-shaped case aboard the presidential jet. If war had many contained in a few seconds to get a distance of the presidential jet. If war had many contained in the presidential jet. If war had many contained in the presidential jet. If war had many contained in the presidential jet. If war had many contained in the presidential jet. If war had many contained in the presidential jet. If war had many contained in the presidential pre he became President, and had terialized "the country's retalia-tory arsenal could be spiked" until Johnson was briefed.

"Had Russia attacked across the DEW line, the greatest military establishment in the history plot and one Cabinet member of the world might easily have over the Pacific assumed that been musclebound during the 15 fateful minutes of warning time dropped on an American city. and perhaps even afterward,

been no military communica-tions blackouts. minitary com-

Manchester says the most sinment and expertise. The lesson of Nov. 23, 1963, has yet to be learned, Manchester writes.

"A study of that afternoon suggests that in any disaster on a work day commercial telephones would become highly unreliable.

"A study of calls between 2 p.m. experiments with the state of the state going nome.

Phones in the Senate and House offices, the various de-partment headquarters, the House offices, the various department headquarters, the White House and even the Signal Corps were temporarily paralyzed. Sen. Edward Kennedy roamed the streets of his neighborhood, trying the phones of extended the streets of his neighborhood, trying the phones of extended the streets of his neighborhood, trying the phones of extended the streets of his neighborhood, trying the phones of protection at the Arlington extended the streets of his neighborhood, trying the phones of protection at the Arlington extended the streets of his neighborhood, trying the phones of protection at the Arlington extended the streets of his neighborhood, trying the phones of protection at the Arlington extended the streets of his neighborhood, trying the phones of protection at the Arlington extended the streets of his neighborhood, trying the phones of protection at the Arlington extended the streets of his neighborhood, trying the phones of protection at the Arlington extended the streets of his neighborhood, trying the phones of protection at the Arlington extended the streets of his neighborhood, trying the phones of protection at the Arlington extended the streets of his neighborhood, trying the phones of protection at the Arlington extended the streets of his neighborhood and the streets of his neighborhood, trying the phones of protection at the Arlington extended the streets of his neighborhood and the streets of his neig strangers, until he got through graveside service.
to Attorney General Robert F. Mrs. Kennedy

A spokesman for the Chesapeake and Potomac said there dial tone."

Authorities from the President and the Joint Chiefs of Staff down to lowest echelon secretaries feared a Russian a nuclear bomb had been

when second-strike capacity became a factor," the book says.

The Defense Department The Defense The Defense Department The Defense The Defense Department The D John McCone, director of the The Defense Department "watch committee to rocal would only say: "There have activities on Moscow and Pemilitary communication, the book says.

And later the CIA got an "abmunications facilities are, and solutely reliable" report from agents in Geneva "who had positively verified an elaborate plot to murder General de Gaulle on the stretch of pavement outside the cathedral (St. Matthews) in Washington where De Gaulle was attending Ken-nedy's funeral," Manchester writes.

Other Details Given

Manchester also reports: Not one member of Kennedy's cabinet responded with enthusiasm to Johnson and an unidentified member wrote that the new President larked Kenne

- government workers began ington's Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, and Cardinal Cushing's idea for a tomb in the middle of Boston Common.

 - "She considered Oswald and Soviet Union."

e Kennedy was buried in a then there would be an air of

- grave in Arlington with an eternal flame aroused misgivings among those close to her but she brushed them aside. Sargent Shriver, her brother-in-
- Johnson Not Briefed

 Most incredible of all, Manhester says, Vice President was dead.

 Strangers, until ne got unbugging averside set vice.

 Mrs. Kennedy sought solace Johnson, DeGaulle, Robert in the hope that her husband had been the victim of a conspiracy.

 Mikoyan, deputy premier of the

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Times Herald
The Washington Daily Hews
The Evening Star
New York Herald Tribune
New York Journal-American
New York Daily News
New York Post
The New York Times
The Baltimore Sun
The Worker
The New Leader
The Wall Street Journal
The National Observer
People's World
Date