

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. DeLoach
- Mr. Mohr
- Mr. Bishop
- Mr. Casper
- Mr. Callahan
- Mr. Conrad
- Mr. Felt
- Mr. Gale
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Sullivan
- Mr. Tavel
- Mr. Trotter
- Tele. Room
- Holmes
- Gandy

TO : Mr. Wick

DATE: 12-28-66

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: "THE DEATH OF A PRESIDENT"  
BY WILLIAM MANCHESTER

*O Assassination of President Johnson*

SYNOPSIS

REC-75

*DeLoach*  
*Sullivan*  
*Callahan*

The purpose of this memorandum is to set forth a brief review of the galley proofs for "Look" magazine's version of "The Death of a President" by William Manchester--with particular reference to criticisms of Lyndon Johnson, references to the FBI and other items of pertinence to the Bureau.

The "Look" magazine version is divided into four installments, the first of which is scheduled for publication in the January 24, 1967, issue of "Look." The four installments cover (1) the hours immediately preceding John and Jackie Kennedy's trip to Texas in November, 1963, and their arrival in Texas; (2) the morning and afternoon of the assassination; (3) activities and animosities during the immediate post-assassination hours at Parkland Hospital in Dallas, in the Presidential airplane at Dallas, and during the flight to Washington; and (4) events in Washington during the hours immediately following the return of the Presidential airplane--with particular reference to the tensions and antagonisms which arose between the Kennedy clique and the new Johnson administration.

*ENCL BEHIND FILE*

The "Look" version contains infrequent backhanded references to the FBI. Manchester twice cites a so-called favorite joke of John F. Kennedy in which Kennedy would state that the three most overrated things in the world were the State of Texas, the FBI and the political wizardry of Lyndon Johnson (or anything else which came to mind). Manchester notes

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Wick
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Gale
- 1 - Miss Gandy

ENCLOSURE

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that the Director was the first person to tell Robert Kennedy that the President had been shot--but the Director did not personally visit Kennedy to express his sympathy. He also states that in the hours immediately following the assassination, President Johnson "applied the Johnsonian cattle prod to J. Edgar Hoover" in connection with the FBI's investigation of the assassination. Manchester further makes reference to FBI Agent James Hosty, "who had questioned Lee Oswald after his return from Russia," watching President Kennedy from the curb in Dallas at 12:24 p.m. on November 22, 1963, and then stepping into a grill for lunch.

The first two installments of the "Look" version contain considerable "small talk" about Texas Governor John Connally, Texas Senator Ralph Yarborough, and the City of Dallas. The third and fourth installments begin to point up the antagonism and bad feelings which erupted during the immediate post-assassination period between the Kennedy clique and the new Johnson administration.

Several pages of the galleys, including those containing statements and conclusions concerning the animosity between the Kennedy and Johnson groups, bear handwritten notations in the margins. In several instances these include the word "cut." The effect which these notations will have on the final published version is unknown.

OBSERVATION:

The "Look" version of Manchester's book reflects that the book will appeal to "gossip-artists" and others with small minds. It is not the scholarly, definitive treatment which many persons had hoped Manchester would present, and it is obvious that there were many more members of the Kennedy clique than the Johnson group among Manchester's sources.

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

*Wick*  
*Wick*  
*Doherty*

*DETAILS*

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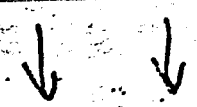
DETAILS:

PART I

Part 1 (pages 1-30) of the uncut "Look" magazine version of William Manchester's forthcoming book on the Kennedy assassination describes the departure of President Kennedy and his party from Washington, D. C., in November, 1963, for a political trip to Texas. The narrative contains comments relative to the President's arrival in San Antonio and ends with the Presidential party reaching the Hotel Texas in Fort Worth on the evening of November 21, 1963.

Specific points felt to be pertinent--including items critical of Lyndon Johnson, as well as mention of the FBI--are as follows:

- Page 1 -- The President felt he was making an unnecessary trip to Texas. In one of his "tart" jokes, the last line of which could be adapted to this occasion, he remarked that the three most overrated things in the world were the State of Texas, the FBI and the political wizardry of Lyndon Baines Johnson.
- Page 4 -- Mention is made of John F. Kennedy's plans for a second term as President. According to Manchester, Robert Kennedy wanted to "bow out" as Attorney General and would ask to be Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs.
- Page 5 -- Texas would be rough. At the Los Angeles convention in 1960 where Johnson had attempted to secure the Presidential nomination for himself, Kennedy himself had been smitten by Johnsonian partisans led by Governor John Connally who spread rumors that he would not live out his first term because he was "diseased."



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- Page 6 --** A notation in the margin of this page reflects that Lyndon Johnson definitely would have been John Kennedy's selection as a running mate in 1964. This page also begins an unflattering description of Texas Governor John Connally.
- Page 8 --** Manchester takes minor exception with the Warren Commission--"The Warren Commission reported that the luncheon site (in Dallas) was selected by the Secret Service with (Kenneth) O'Donnell's approval. This is incorrect. The decision was a political decision, made by politicians."
- Page 10 --** Manchester states that the Warren Commission, ten months after the assassination, found "no evidence" of any connection between Lee Harvey Oswald's crime and the "general atmosphere of hate" in Dallas. According to Manchester, the Commission's "verdict was influenced by expediency."
- Page 16 --** Senator Ralph Yarborough, in his political fight with Governor Connally, had learned the details of a trap Connally had laid for him. The more Yarborough thought about it, the more wrathful he became. "Connally and Johnson--for he held the Vice President guilty as a co-conspirator--were as black as a Republican's heart."
- Page 18 --** Mention is made of Presidential activities in San Antonio; stress is laid on the alleged feud between Yarborough and Connally. Reporters allegedly saw Yarborough avoiding the Vice President, and they decided to call it a snub. "Connally was to blame, but Connally was safe and snug in the big Lincoln; it was Johnson who was losing face."

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**Page 20--** The Presidential party arrived in Houston, Texas. The President sent for Vice President Johnson, both of whom were staying at the Rice Hotel. In a conference in the Presidential Suite the two men became involved in a disagreement. Mrs. Kennedy was in the next room although she was aware of "raised voices." Hotel servants heard Yarborough's name mentioned several times. "Johnson controlled his celebrated temper in his chief's presence, but in the words of one man on duty outside, 'He left that suite like a pistol.'" After the Vice President left, Jacqueline Kennedy commented, "He sounded mad," whereupon the President looked amused. "That's just Lyndon. But he's in trouble."

**Page 23--** Manchester mentions that nine Secret Service agents "were out on the town" in Fort Worth, the evening before the President was shot. These agents started with beer and mixed drinks. Some of these agents were slated for official duty the next day.

## **PART II**

Part II (pages 1-35) deals with events on November 22, 1963--the date of the assassination. Comments are made concerning the lives of Lee Harvey Oswald and President Kennedy. This Part sets forth the actual assassination and the taking of the President's body to Parkland Hospital.

**Page 2 --** Early on the morning of November 22, 1963, President Kennedy made his appearance in the hotel lobby. He appeared happy. A reporter was struck by the difference between the President's mood and the Vice President's. He wished Johnson a good morning. Johnson's answer, the newsman noted, was "dour, mechanical, perfunctory."

**Page 5 --** Mention is made of a visit by President-elect Kennedy in November, 1960, to the LBJ ranch in Texas when Kennedy was invited by Johnson to participate in a hunt for wild game. Kennedy was a crack shot in trap shooting. In one version of his "pet joke" he used to tell friends that the three most overrated things in the world were the State of Texas, the FBI and marksmanship.

**Page 10--** In Dallas Lyndon and Lady Bird Johnson welcomed the Kennedys for the fourth time in less than 24 hours. "Both couples felt slightly

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silly." Moreover, there would be two more such welcomes, and Lyndon looked up at Jackie "shrugging comically at the absurdity of it all, and she laughed." After the Dallas airport reception line broke up, Johnson's next scheduled performance wouldn't be until that afternoon. The cheers on the other side of the chain fence were for the President. After a token appearance, the Vice President led Lady Bird to a convertible. "He was so disgusted with the decline in his own political power that he ordered the car's commercial radio turned on full blast to drown out the noise of the crowd."

**Page 13--** Mention is made that at 12:24 p. m., November 22, 1963, Jim Hosty, an FBI Agent who had questioned Oswald after his return from Russia, watched Kennedy from the curb and then stepped into the Alamo Grill for lunch. "He had seen the President. His day, he felt, was made."

**Page 16--** A paragraph is utilized to describe the wounds inflicted by Oswald upon the President. Manchester's account coincides with the official autopsy report.

**Page 18--** Manchester constantly stresses the differences between Johnson and Kennedy. Here he comments that one of the earliest consequences of the assassination "was to become one of the most searing: a schism among those who were close to the Presidency. The loyalists, mourning John Kennedy, could not adjust to Lyndon Johnson." Manchester then describes the confusion this schism caused among Secret Service agents in Dallas.

**Page 30--** Manchester mentions that Director J. Edgar Hoover communicated the news of the President's assassination to Attorney General Robert Kennedy. Mr. Hoover first called the Attorney General's office but eventually located the Attorney General at the latter's home in Virginia. Manchester makes these comments concerning Mr. Hoover's call to the Attorney General's office: "His delivery, as always, was staccato, shrill, mechanical."

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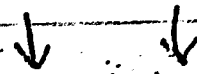
**PART III**

Part III (pages 1-43) describes the harrowing hours at Parkland Hospital, the conflict there over removal of the President's body from Dallas, the transfer of the casket from the hospital to the Presidential plane at Love Field. Considerable space is then allocated to a description of activities occurring on the Presidential plane leading to the swearing in of Lyndon Johnson as the new President. The chapter concludes with arrival of the Presidential plane in Washington, D. C.

Page 3 -- Throughout Part III Manchester constantly emphasizes the differences between Kennedy and his staff and Johnson and his staff. The first sentence of paragraph two sums up Manchester's viewpoint: "To those who loved John Kennedy the transition of power seemed needlessly cruel." The author continues: "Consolidating the two groups on one airplane was to prove extremely unfortunate and aspects of Johnson's behavior in a very understandable state of shock may have proven exacerbating, but the difficulty there was largely one of manners and mannerisms. Johnson was not himself that afternoon--no man was himself then."

Page 4 -- In the second paragraph from the bottom the FBI is briefly mentioned. It is stated that during a Cosmos Club meeting, brought to the FBI's attention some six months after the tragedy, Major General Petro A. del Valle, USMC (ret.), a former commanding officer of the First Marine Division, told an admiring group of retired officers: "It was the hand of God that pulled the trigger that killed Kennedy."

Page 5 -- Another telephone conversation between Director J. Edgar Hoover and Attorney General Robert Kennedy is reported. Mr. Hoover again called Kennedy at the latter's Virginia home telling the Attorney General that his brother was dead. " 'The President's dead,' he said snappily and hung up." Manchester then adds, "He (Mr. Hoover) expressed no compassion; he did not seem to be upset. His voice, as the Attorney General recalled afterward, was 'not quite as excited as if he were reporting the fact that he had found a Communist on the faculty of Howard University.' Ordinarily garrulous, Hoover had suddenly turned curt with his superior."



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"It would be charitable to attribute the swift change to the stresses of that afternoon. Yet although Bob Kennedy continued in the Cabinet for over nine months, Hoover, whose office was on the same floor, never walked over to offer his condolences. One of his assistants wrote Kennedy a moving letter, and the agents in the FBI's crime squad sent him a message of sympathy, but their Director remained sphinxlike."

(Marginal notes, apparently from an editor, indicate that the material in the above two paragraphs is to be cut. It is not clear whether the two complete paragraphs are to be omitted or whether the sentence "He expressed no compassion; he did not seem to be upset" will still remain from the final two paragraphs.)

(This reflects the same distortion and pettiness that led Robert Kennedy, or a member of his staff, to falsely assert to "Newsweek" magazine in the Fall of 1964 that the Director did not send Robert Kennedy a letter of condolence at the time of John Kennedy's death. That false statement was very effectively refuted by the Director.)

Pages 26-38--In these pages a detailed account is given of events occurring on the Presidential plane at Love Field, Dallas. Both Johnson and his staff and Mrs. Kennedy, the President's body and members of the Kennedy staff are aboard. All through this description Manchester emphasizes how Mrs. Kennedy's privacy was invaded by Johnson and his staff and how the holding of the plane in Dallas so Johnson could take the oath of office caused deep concern and anguish to Mrs. Kennedy and her friends.

Pages 26-27--Upon arrival at Love Field, Mrs. Kennedy wanted to be by herself for a few moments in the Presidential plane. She entered her bedroom and, to her amazement, inside she found, "sprawled across the bedspread," Lyndon Johnson dictating to a secretary. Mrs. Kennedy came to a dead stop. The new President "heaved himself up and hastily lumbered past her." The secretary also left the bedroom.

Page 27-- Considerable space is now devoted to explaining conflicting orders to the pilot of the Presidential aircraft. The Kennedy party, now that the President's body was aboard, desired to leave Dallas



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immediately for Washington. Johnson, on the other hand, wanted to remain on the ground until he could be sworn in as the new President. Godfrey McHugh, a Kennedy aide, gave instructions to pilot Jim Swindal to take off. Mac Kilduff, a White House aide, knowing of Johnson's desire to wait to be sworn in, darted to the pilot's compartment and instructed Pilot Swindal to cut the motors off. Manchester then sets forth other incidents involving the tension inside the cabin. "Johnson's decision to take his oath in Dallas was about to cause an increase in the inevitable tension between the Johnson and Kennedy people.

"During the past two hours, the Kennedy staff had lost a President and then battled to remove his coffin from the hospital. They had faced more buffeting than most people experience in a lifetime. Their tempers were tinder. If Johnson had directed them to take the plane parked alongside rather than Air Force One, they would have been spared the climax of their anguish."

Page 30-- "The conflict had become irreconcilable. The Kennedy party believed that Air Force One's chief passenger was their fallen leader; since he could not give them orders, they looked to Mrs. Kennedy, who shared their feeling that they must quit Dallas, and who was bewildered by the delay. The attitude of the Johnson party, on the other hand, was summed up by Youngblood (the Secret Service agent), who drew Lem Johns aside during the turmoil and emphatically told him, 'When the boss says we go, then we go.'"

Page 30-- Toward the conclusion of this incident Manchester reports that McHugh pointed toward the tail compartment crying, "I have only one President, and he's lying back in that cabin." His words were heard by virtually every passenger. "But Lyndon Johnson had ears too." General McHugh had forfeited his hope for another star. Indeed, his days in uniform were numbered.

Page 31-- Lyndon and Lady Bird Johnson enter Jackie Kennedy's bedroom to offer their condolences. "Johnson called her 'Honey,' put his arm around her and shook his head, but he left expressions of commiseration to his wife. Mrs. Johnson was a woman, and Mrs. Kennedy liked her." According to Manchester, Lady Bird Johnson now made

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an extremely cruel remark. "I don't know what to say. What wounds me most of all is that this should happen in my beloved state of Texas." Before Lady Bird finished she realized she had blundered. Kennedy's death should have wounded her more than the fact that it had occurred in Texas.

**Page 32--** Manchester apparently now desires to give the impression that Johnson pressed upon Jackie Kennedy, still shocked by the events of the day, the wish of his to be sworn into office. Johnson explained that he had arranged for "an old friend," Judge Hughes, to administer the oath. She would be here, Johnson said, in about an hour. Manchester adds: "Alone on the bed, she smoked a cigarette, staring vacantly into space. Then the full force of what he had said struck her. An hour, she thought. My God, do I have to wait an hour?"

**Page 32--** Manchester leaves the impression that there was considerable discussion by Johnson's party as to the mechanics of having the oath taken--which represented distressing contrast to the sad feelings of the Kennedy group. Couldn't the oath be taken aloft as the plane was on its way to Washington? "Instead a maddening discussion about lens angles and closeups had begun. The concern was arising in several minds that they were about to witness a spectacle which was bound to involve President Kennedy's widow. Independently of them, the widow was reaching the same conclusion; after the Johnsons' departure, she noticed that her Austin clothes (apparently clothes she was scheduled to wear at Austin, Texas) had been carefully laid out on the other bed...." Mrs. Kennedy had the nagging feeling that Johnson wanted her to look immaculate in his inaugural picture "so that the public's memory of the scene on Elm Street would be blurred."

**Page 33--** Manchester comments that Johnson "continued to steamroller ahead"--that is, he was taking charge immediately without consideration for the feelings of the Kennedy group.

**Page 34--** Ken O'Donnell (a Kennedy aide) couldn't see why the Kennedy people should be involved in a Johnson ceremony. "He was convinced that if the judge had reached the airport before the hearse, Johnson would have taken off without them."

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**Page 34--** Johnson talked to Attorney General Kennedy in Washington as to when and where he (Johnson) should take the oath. Manchester explains that there appears to be a misunderstanding as to what occurred in the conversation between Johnson and Robert Kennedy. Johnson's party had difficulty in finding an oath to use.

**Page 35--** The Kennedy group did not want to be in the pictures of Johnson's swearing in ceremony. "Despite the width of the Hasselblad lens, it did not record the presence of a single male Kennedy aide." "President Johnson did not deserve this. To a man of his hypersensitivity, such treatment was deeply wounding. More important, it was an affront to the Presidency."

**Page 38--** The flight from Dallas to Washington is described as one of bickering tension. "Individual recollections of the flight were to vary sharply, but nearly everyone in the cabin felt the smouldering animosity."

**Page 40--** Manchester mentions that the rapport between Mrs. Kennedy and Mr. Johnson had been excellent, "but she knew how skillful he was at manipulating people. She intended to make certain she was not manipulated now" (after the plane arrived at Washington).

**Page 43--** Manchester reports that Johnson was upset concerning incidents involved after landing of the plane. After presiding over the Cabinet for the first time, Johnson confided to one of its members that he had "real problems with the family." According to this secretary's notes, Johnson reportedly stated that the Kennedy family paid no attention to him whatsoever when the plane arrived, but he said he just turned the other cheek. "What can I do," he reportedly said, "I do not want to get into a fight with the family and the aura of Kennedy is important to all of us."

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**PART IV**

**Pages 1-32 --**

Part IV is dedicated to events in Washington, D. C., in the hours following the arrival of President Kennedy's body--including the efforts of President Johnson to pick up and continue the business of running the Government. In their uncut version, these pages contain many passages reflecting a strong undercurrent of tension and animosity between Robert Kennedy, as well as other intimate members of the Kennedy clique, and President Johnson.

**are:**

Part IV contains three direct references to the FBI. They

**Page 18 --**

Manchester states that the then Deputy Attorney General Nicholas Katzenbach proposed appointment of an investigative commission of the type that Chief Justice Earl Warren subsequently headed. Manchester continues, "To his horror, Katzenbach learned that the new President had tentatively decided upon a Texas commission, with all non-Texans, including Federal officials, excluded. Katzenbach went straight to Abe Fortas, the Washington attorney closest to Lyndon Johnson. He bluntly labeled Johnson's idea a ghastly mistake. From Fortas, he heard for the first time that the President intended to release the forthcoming FBI report on the assassination the moment it was ready. That, too, would be improper, Nick argued, and he insisted that the report be channeled through the Attorney General and himself."

**Page 21 --**

Manchester states that President Johnson "fenced sharply" with Katzenbach over whether the assassination should be investigated by a Federal or state board of inquiry and that the President "applied the Johnsonian cattle prod to J. Edgar Hoover, who by now was dispatching fleets of agents to Love Field."

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**Page 32 --**

Manchester writes of a conversation between President Johnson and John F. Kennedy's top aide, Ted Sorensen, in which Johnson asked whether Sorensen thought a foreign government might be involved in the assassination. According to Manchester, Johnson showed Sorensen "an FBI memo advising him that the rulers of an unfriendly power had been hoping for Kennedy's death. The report was too hazy for serious consideration. There were no names or facts, and the name of the FBI's informant was in code. 'Meaningless,' said Sorensen, handing it back" to the President. (A quick survey of personnel of the Domestic Intelligence Division has disclosed none who recall such a communication being sent to President Johnson in the hours immediately following the assassination.)

The early pages of Part IV show a very close relationship between Jackie Kennedy and Mr. and Mrs. Ben Bradlee (of "Newsweek" and "The Washington Post"). Manchester quotes Bradlee as describing Robert F. Kennedy as "the strongest thing you have ever seen" in the hours following the assassination. There are several other passages showing that Robert Kennedy took charge for Jackie Kennedy and stood by her throughout the funeral arrangements, including one which indicates that he joined the President's widow in her determination that the casket should remain closed.

**Page 1 --**

After being told by Robert Kennedy that "a Communist" appeared to have killed the President, Jackie Kennedy is quoted as remarking, "He didn't even have the satisfaction of being killed for Civil Rights. It's--it had to be some silly little Communist."

**Page 4 --**

In a paragraph which is marked to be "cut," Manchester states that Robert Kennedy "reaffirmed to Ken O'Donnell and Larry O'Brien that he had not urged Johnson to take the oath (of Presidency) on the plane."

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**Page 9 --**

Reflects that while waiting at Bethesda Naval Hospital with Jackie Kennedy and others, Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara talked about how splendid John F. Kennedy's second four years as President would have been--and that McNamara was to have been Secretary of State during Kennedy's second term.

**Page 10 --**

Manchester recounts difficulties encountered by the Kennedy clique in arranging for a military escort for the President's body when it arrived at the White House. (Ultimately, the Marines responded in high style despite short notice.) Additionally, pages 16-17 indicate that "widespread antagonism toward the Secret Service" existed on the part of Presidential Secretary Evelyn Lincoln and possibly other members of the Kennedy clique.

Among the references in Part IV which are degrading to President Johnson or reflect animosity toward him are the following:

**Pages 14, 23--**

Arthur Schlesinger is shown as "wondering whether Lyndon Johnson should be his party's candidate in the coming (1964) election" and as conferring with Party Chairman John Bailey as to "whether it would be possible to deny the new President the nomination." Allegedly, Schlesinger was considering the possibility of a Robert Kennedy and Hubert Humphrey ticket in 1964.

**Pages 17, 18--**

Recount that Lyndon Johnson gave Evelyn Lincoln "less than an hour" to move from her White House office so that his (Johnson's) girls could move in. These pages leave no doubt that Evelyn Lincoln and Robert Kennedy were bitter over the new President's desire to quickly move the Kennedy staff members out, and himself in, at the White House. In this section of Part IV, Manchester describes an encounter between Johnson and Robert Kennedy at the White House in which "Johnson told him (Kennedy) that he needed him more than his brother had. By now, a half a dozen members of the administration had quoted this same line to Kennedy."

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Pages 19, 20-- Manchester asserts that "a physical, visible frontier" quickly arose between the Johnson and Kennedy administrations. "All were aware of its existence... and the leadership of the Executive Department was split into two camps. At one end of the spectrum were the loyalists--Schlesinger, Sorensen, O'Donnell, and their leader, Robert Kennedy.... At the other end stood the realists--men like Mac Bundy, who repeatedly reminded other members of the Kennedy team that 'the show must go on'...." Sergeant Shriver is described as another realist who volunteered his services during the early hours of the Johnson administration.

In a portion of the text labeled to be "cut," Manchester quotes Kenneth Galbraith as telling Agriculture Secretary Orville Freeman, "We've got to take care of some of these liberals now, so they don't go shooting off their mouths."

Page 21 -- Manchester states that Johnson's "chameleon nature has never been more evident" than during his first full day as President. "There have never been so many Lyndon Johnsons.... The President was exploiting his great gift for exposing this or that facet of his character so that each visitor would leave with a feeling of warmth and reassurance. Since the visitors entered one at a time, his success was almost universal."

Page 22 -- Manchester cites the first meeting between new President Johnson and former President Eisenhower. He claims that Johnson impressed Eisenhower as being unsure of himself. He quotes Eisenhower as stating that Johnson was, "as he always is, nervous"--that Johnson asked Eisenhower's advice about many matters, but Johnson himself suggested nothing new or different.

Pages 24, 29-- Manchester describes a meeting between Kenneth Galbraith and President Johnson in which Johnson asks Galbraith to write a speech for him to deliver before a joint session of Congress. Then Manchester comments, "The President was making the same request of a half-dozen men. If you were literate, informed and empathic, you were being drafted." Later he states (in a section labeled to be "cut") that in contrast with John F. Kennedy's "frontal approach" in which Kennedy expressed ideas or judgments as being

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his own, Lyndon Johnson "presented himself as an entrepreneur of other men's ideas. In the event that they proved to be bad ideas, the promoter wasn't at fault; he had merely offered them for consideration. His cautious introductions ('Bundy says,' 'Rusk says,' or 'McNamara says') absolved him from responsibility."

Page 24 --

Manchester deals with the first Cabinet meeting presided over by President Johnson. He states that "the meeting was not a triumph" for Johnson. Attorney General Kennedy, who was preoccupied with the funeral of his brother, arrived late and "sat back brooding, his heavy eyes hooded." In a portion of Part IV which is labeled to be "cut," Manchester states that Lyndon Johnson "was convinced that Kennedy's late arrival at the meeting had been intentional, and he insisted that Kennedy, bent upon humiliating him, had confided to 'an aide' that 'We won't go in until he has already sat down.' Kennedy not only denies this; when the President's interpretation was described to him, he was first flabbergasted, then amused."

Page 30 --

Manchester claims that during the early hours of the Johnson administration, Robert Kennedy was "exasperated" by the new President's failure to communicate with him directly rather than sending Sergeant Shriver or another "emissary" to confer with him.

Pages 31, 32--

In Sections which are labeled to be "cut," Manchester states, "It does seem obvious that Johnson felt balked, and that he blamed much of his frustration on Robert Kennedy. That was understandable. The Attorney General was symbolic of the past he had to overcome. It was also unfair.... Afterward, and especially after he himself had become an elected President in his own right, Johnson would forget that he had ever pleaded for the support of Kennedy's aides. The very mention of their names would annoy him. Within a year, he would even resent the Kennedy aura itself...."