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ASHINGTON BEAT

## Author Backs Warren Report

By LESLIE CARPENTER
Star Special Writer

William Manchester's book, "Death o fa President," which has political Washington in a stir because of its unxpected early publication, will likely support the Warren Commission's conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone as the assassin of President John F. Kennedy.

Manchester, at least, told a friend not long ago that anyone as familiar as he with the multitude of details in the death of Kennedy "had to agree" with the essential validity of the commission's findings. Yet, Manchester observed, he could see how critics of the commission might be misled because some of the investigation was handled in a "slipshod" way.

Manchester, is the talented young author selected by Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy to write and authorized account of the assassination. He sat through most of the Warren Commission hearings. He had his own follow-up interviews with many questioned by the commission, plus other persons not called by the commission.

Of keener interest to politicians is the dynamite the book can set off between pro-Johnson and pro-Kennedy factions among Democrats. Neither President Johnson nor any of his staff has seen the book, which everybody has been told would be winned from publication until Nov. 22, 1968, or

would not appear in print until the end of 1968.

The Johnson people have relid rumors that members of the Kennedy family, who have seen it, are worried that the book places Johnson in such an unfavorable light that it will greatly rupture the already sensitive relations between them.

Look magazine will print the first four installments from it in mid-January. The book will be out in March.

Manchester was irritated because Johnson would not give him an interview. Johnson's position was that he had made a complete statement to the Warren Commission and had nothing to add. Manchester felt the missing link of a private presidential interview diminished the "official" historical significance of the book.

Mrs. Johnson talked to the writer at length, as did all members of Johnson's staff whom Manchester wanted to see. They, as well as others, understood what they said

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