

Book Depicts Johnson as Bewildered

Continued from Page 3, Col. 3

me Johnson does not emerge as an unsympathetic character."

Mrs. John F. Kennedy is portrayed on the day of the tragedy, according to this person, as "quite frantic, quite hysterical, quite ferocious."

"Her attitude is that she is going to end this thing right and that she is quite angry at the world for letting this happen," the person said.

In this book, which uses some material based on 10 hours of taped interviews with Mrs. Kennedy, Mr. Manchester is reported to have quoted her as saying that she knew her husband was dead while he was being rushed to the hospital, she was so sure he was already dead, the book is reported as saying.

The manuscript is said to tell of her wrestling with a nurse who would not allow her into the room with her husband at the hospital until a doctor told the nurse to let her pass.

On this day, said the person who read the manuscript, Jackie keeps saying she wants to keep her blood-spattered clothes on so 'they can see what they've done.'"

Signs of Hostility

In the plane after President Kennedy was pronounced dead at the hospital, overt indications of hostility between the supporters of Mr. Johnson and the Kennedy faction are reported to be in the book. One Johnson man, according to the man who read the book, was heard to say, "Well, Kennedy's not the President any more."

The scene in the plane as Mr. Johnson tried to determine how to go about being sworn in as President is not calculated, according to the person who read the book, to win friends for Mr. Johnson or to be regarded favorably by him.

Mr. Johnson is reported in the book as having had difficulty reaching Robert F. Kennedy, who was then Attorney General, about the swearing in and the oath. Though he apparently received noncommittal replies from the Attorney General's assistants and, eventually, from the Attorney General, he is shown in the book as having been certain he knew what had to be done.

A second person, also in the publishing business and not a part of the current dispute, recalled this portion vividly from his reading of the manuscript six months ago.

"You have the feeling that

L.B.J. wanted to use Jackie to some extent because he wanted her to be in the picture in the swearing in," the second person said.

'L.B.J. Concerned'

"L.B.J. was concerned over a possible conspiracy and wanted to get out. He feared a Russian attack. He was rather brusque. L.B.J. wanted to establish instantly that he was the President. [Robert] Kennedy interpreted this as 'Here is this man who has been wishing he had been President all along and here he is grabbing it.'

"The book shows the whole episode as seen through Kennedy eyes. It isn't embarrassingly pro-Kennedy, but when you get through you realize there is almost nothing in it that is unkind about the Kennedy family."

Of Robert Kennedy, as shown in the manuscript, this source said:

"Bobby emerges very much the way you would expect. He was very much in charge of things. Very much in a state of shock, yet doing what you would expect of him and very much taking over the family. He comes off very well in the book."

Then, referring to Jackie's reaction after the first day, as

indicated in the book, this source said:

"She actually snapped back from this pretty well. By the time of the reception after the funeral, she was behaving very calmly."

There is a postscript in the book, according to this source, to the effect that Mrs. Kennedy still has the dress she wore the day of the assassination, but she is not sure where it is.

Moving Incident

One of the most moving incidents in the book, according to one of the persons who read the manuscript, concerns the Kennedy daughter, Caroline.

The source said the book described it this way:

When the assassination by Secret Service man SHRDLU HTARD driving with a nurse and a Secret Service man near the White House. The Secret Service man with her did not know if the assassination was part of a conspiracy. The nurse wanted to take Caroline to her home. But the Secret Service man suggested they return to the White House.

On the way back to the White House, the Secret Service man

noticed a car was following them. After a few turns, as the car continued to follow, the Secret Service man was seriously considering getting out and shooting the driver if he did not shake the second car. However, the agent managed to evade the second car.

Mr. Manchester, in the book, is said to consider that the second car was driven by a Secret Service man, trying to protect Caroline.

Indicative of the friction that developed between Kennedy and Johnson factions shortly after the assassination was an incident recalled from the book by this second person.

"When flying back," he said, "the Kennedy people did not want to be associated with the Johnson people in the plane. A high Kennedy aide went up to a reporter: 'Make sure you report that we rode in the back with our President and not up front with him.'"

"I have a hunch," said this source, "that what bothers Jackie as much as what she and Mr. Manchester is how she felt when holding Kennedy's head."