

Johnson Reportedly Depicted as 'Weak'

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Times quoted a source Sunday as saying that the book, "Death of a President," depicts Lyndon B. Johnson as a "weak and ineffectual person" until the assassination of John F. Kennedy made him President.

The newspaper said Mr. Johnson is reported to be depicted in a way

Manchester's book as sympathetic to the Kennedy family after the tragedy but bewildered by their hostility toward him.

The New York Times quoted a publishing field source who read the manuscript six months ago as saying: "The overall impression you get of Johnson at that time is that of a guy who is in a state of

shock and who is confused by the Kennedy hostility."

The source, the newspaper said, is not involved in current court proceedings by Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy to halt publication of the book.

According to its source, the New York Times said, "The manuscript showed the then Vice President (Mr. Johnson) to be of so

little significance that immediately before the motorcade on the day of the assassination, important persons were trying to avoid riding in his car."

"The scene in the plane as Johnson tried to deter-

mine how to go about being sworn in as President) is not calculated, according to the person who read the book, to win friends for Johnson or to be regarded favorably by him," the newspaper said.