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PRESSURE DENIED ON KENNEDY BOOK

Family Said to Be Concerned Over Its Serialization

By HOMER BIGART
Are the Kennedys trying to delay, censor or squelch the publication of William Manchester's account of the assassination of the President? So persistent are reports of family interference that Look magazine is planning a full-page newspaper advertisement next week that will announce the forthcoming publication and quote the author's statement: "Neither the President's widow, Mrs. John F. Kennedy, nor his brother Senator Robert F. Kennedy had tried to edit the manuscript."

What the Kennedys reportedly are concerned about is not the impact of Mr. Manchester's book, "The Death of a President," which Mr. Kennedy herself authorized, but the impact of its serialization in six or seven installments.

Distortion Feared

They are said to fear that certain episodes, printed outside the total context of the drama, might present some important individuals in an unsympathetic and distorting light. Consequently Mrs. Kennedy is reported to feel that Look should run the manuscript in two or three long installments. Then there would be less danger of distortion, especially in news articles based on the installments.

There are episodes in the narrative that require delicate and detailed handling. According to one who has read it, the Manchester manuscript reveals that in their last conversation President Kennedy and Vice President Johnson got into an argument.

President Kennedy reportedly did not like his visit to Texas. Why could he not have stayed in Dallas? Mr. Johnson is said to have been a very good host. The Kennedy family is said to have been very friendly to the Texas Democrats and the Yarborough Democrats and let the President tend pressing business in Washington.

Reflecting that the Texas trip ended in the President's assassination in Dallas, a careless reading of the Kennedy-Johnson

argument might result in anger over the role of Mr. Johnson. But Mr. Manchester is said to have given at considerable length the reasons Mr. Johnson urged the trip. Texas had been won in 1960 by a slim margin and a deepening Democratic split threatened loss of the state to the Republicans in 1964. Mr. Johnson is said to have argued that since becoming Vice President, he had lost much of his political leverage in Texas, and that only a visit by the President would help.

Look plans to start serialization early in 1967, it was learned, and the appearance of the last installment will coincide with publication of the book by Harper & Row. Look is said to have paid a record \$450,000 for first serial rights. Some of Mr. Manchester's material has been deleted on grounds of taste and national interest, it was learned, but none of the Kennedys have read the manuscript let alone tried to censor it. Of the ten hours of taped interviews with Mrs. Kennedy, Mr. Manchester himself deleted segments because he felt their publication would be unwarranted invasion of privacy. These deletions will be less

