

land, and after discussions with the three Texas
ied him from the hospital, Johnson reaches another
flight from Dallas. It seems advisable to take the
26000 is airborne, and he resolves to discuss the
Robert Kennedy, who will concur on administra-
Johnson recalled:

plane were lowered. We heard that we were
nnedy and for the coffin. There was discussion
ould be sworn in as president.³⁶ There was a
ngton—I believe, to the attorney general. It
ndon] should be sworn in *there*, in Dallas, as
cause of international implications and be-
ow *wide*—whether this was an incident *there*
ther it had a *wider spread* as to the intended

, a federal judge in Dallas—and I am glad it
come in a hurry. . . .³⁷

e issue of the Dallas swearing-in would become
gnificance. In point of fact, Johnson had become
nnedy died because Johnson had already sworn the
uanary 1961.³⁸ Retaking the oath was not even a
important only symbolically, in that it reassured
world that although Kennedy was dead, the presi-

±2 p.m.

5000 while it is waiting on the airport tarmac are
ugh nothing on this day is *truly* routine anymore.
reserved do not include the oath-of-office discus-
ed between Johnson and Robert Kennedy shortly

s within the space of six minutes. Johnson reaches the attorney
t Kennedy, after consulting briefly with Deputy Attorney Gen
president back at 2:02 p.m. List of Telephone Calls, 28 Decem-
le, LBJL.

to her husband's discussion with Texas Representatives Jack
Homer Thornberry (D).

LBJL.

7.

before and after 2 p.m. They were not recorded apparently because no specific
request was made to record them.³⁹

±2:25 p.m.

At approximately 2:14 p.m., after another journey from Parkland Hospital to
Love Field at breakneck speed, a snow-white Cadillac hearse edges up to SAM
26000 bearing Jacqueline Kennedy and a solid bronze casket containing her
husband's corpse. With scarcely any room to maneuver, a bevy of presidential
aides, Secret Service agents, and Dallas policemen begin straining and heaving
to place the nearly half-ton load aboard the aircraft. A partition and four seats
have been removed from the aircraft's tail end to accommodate the coffin.

As the time of departure draws nearer—hinging entirely now on Judge
Hughes's arrival to readminister the oath of office—the logistics after landing
at Andrews AFB become a primary topic of the radio traffic. Roy Kellerman
(aka DIGEST), the agent in charge of the Secret Service in Dallas, first called the
head of the White House Detail, Jerry Behn (aka DUPLEX), from Parkland Hos-
pital. In that way Behn has been kept informed of every development, including
the president's death approximately thirty minutes before it was officially
announced.⁴⁰ Now, in Kellerman's first call from Love Field, they discuss the
needs of both presidents aboard SAM 26000 and the wishes of LACE (Mrs.
Kennedy).

Andrews AFB: 26000, Andrews. CROWN on; go ahead.

SAM 26000: Roger.

CROWN, 26000. Would you get a patch with Jerry Behn, please?

White House: Roger, stand by.

26000, DUPLEX is on. Go ahead.

SAM 26000: Thank you; stand by one [moment].

Behn: Hello?

Kellerman: Jerry? . . . Hello? . . . Just to give you the fill-in here now. We're at
the airport . . . [SAM] 26,000 [*sic*] . . . with everybody aboard.

39. *Ibid.*, 268–69. Although Manchester will write that conversations made from SAM 26000
were not recorded before the aircraft became airborne, that was not the case. Generally speaking,
however, telephone calls were not taped unless requested; only radio traffic having to do with the
flight was recorded. In addition, the calls from Johnson to Robert Kennedy may not have been
recorded because they were placed from a telephone in the presidential quarters and routed through
the White House national switchboard, which was separate from the WHCA switchboard. Memo
re Telephone Conversation with General McHugh, 14 December 1963, President Johnson's
Diary—November 22, 1963, Box 2, Special File, LBJL.

40. Manchester, *Death*, 254.

Max Holland,

"The Kennedy Assassination Tapes: The White House Conversations of Lyndon B. Johnson Regarding the Assassination, the Warren Commission and the Aftermath"

NY Alfred A. Knopf, 2004