

# Battle of the Book? Goes On

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## Manchester's Wife 'Sorry' For Jackie

BY DOROTHY McCARDLE  
*World Journal Tribune Special*  
MIDDLETOWN, Conn., April 4—Mrs. William Manchester, wife of the author of the controversial account of the assassination of President Kennedy, has never met Mrs. John F. Kennedy. "And I don't want to, either," she said during an interview at her home in this quiet college town. Judy Manchester, former Julia Marshall of Baltimore, spread her hands in a "so what?" gesture and

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## Salinger Blames It All On Himself

BY ANTHONY COWDY  
*World Journal Tribune Special*  
LONDON, April 4 — "My judgment wasn't very good," said Pierre Salinger, once press secretary for John F. Kennedy, explaining that he —not Jacqueline Kennedy—picked William Manchester to write "The Death of a President." "That was a time when you went home and you got drunk and you cried. "I chose a man who has precipitated a world-wide battle of the book." He is in

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than anyone else to the Kennedy family. In retrospect, it was pure idiocy," Salinger said.

Salinger now has more reason than his loyalty to the Kennedy family for being vociferously angry about Manchester's part in "the battle of the book." He is in London to promote his own chatty book "With Kennedy."

## HURT HIS REPUTATION

The former White House spokesman insists that Manchester has done "irreparable damage" to Salinger's reputation as a writer. Any suggestion that "With Kennedy" was censored by the Kennedy family or their representatives is, he says, "wholly and categorically untrue."

There has, he says, been only one deletion from his book: Three words removed at the suggestion both of Prof. J. Kenneth Galbraith and Salinger's publishers. They were a more or less unprintable expletive uttered to Salinger by the late president.

The manuscript had been forwarded to Prof. Galbraith by Sen. Robert Kennedy, to whom Salinger had sent a copy "as a courtesy." Salinger insists he never discussed the book with Sen. Kennedy before its publication.

## THREE CHOICES

In the months after the assassination, Salinger said, he considered, with Robert and Jacqueline Kennedy, at least three leading candidates for the post of "official chronicler" of John Kennedy's death. First choice was Theodore H. White, author of the two election books on "The Making of the President."

White said he could not bring himself to do it.

Then Salinger, after considering Walter Lord ("A Night to Remember" on the Titanic disaster, and "Day of Infamy") finally selected Manchester, with whom he had collaborated on an earlier adulatory book on JFK, "Portrait of a President."

The reason for Salinger's

fury against his former collaborator is not, he stressed, the book itself. This he considers "a great book, and as far as I know, a fair historical picture." But he alleges that Manchester broke a contract because he was given privileged information on the understanding it would be checked with its source.

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shrugged her trim shoulders. She pushed her auburn page boy hair out of her eyes.

"I feel sorry for Mrs. Kennedy," she said.

"I think she lives in a different world. She doesn't understand writers. And she spoke of hiring my husband!" Her low voice rocketed upward, partly to drown out the noise of children playing in the next room.

The youngest of the Manchesters' three children, 4-year-old Laurie, and a boy from next door were building a castle of wooden blocks which had just collapsed. Julie, 9, came home from school. She and her mother discussed the time of a music lesson. John, 16, had returned to boarding school after the Easter recess.

The author was not at home. He spends his days in a hideaway office in the library of Wesleyan University. He has been associated with Wesleyan since the Manchesters moved to Middletown 12 years ago and bought a 100-year-old house on the edge of the campus.

The Manchesters are selling the house to the university and are building a modern home on the crest of a hill a short walk down the street.

## PLANS NEW HOME

Plans for the new house lay on the coffee table.

"This is to be our lifetime home," Mrs. Manchester said.

She brought in mugs of coffee as she showed the plans. She had made the mugs and also the pots containing flowers in the kitchen. She has a potter's wheel which will have its own room in the new house.

"Actually, we don't expect all of this to change our way of living very much," she said. "Our plans for the new house were under way before the book."

"This business of being a celebrity is not much fun," she said.

Their normal routine has been disrupted lately, what with the controversy over the book.

"Oh, I am so bored with all that," she said, and didn't bother to stifle her yawn.

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