

Book Reveals

William Manchester's hotly-debated book, "The Death of a President," vividly documents alleged incompetence and laxity among the law officers guarding President Kennedy on the day he was assassinated, it was reported today.

The controversial 1,300-page manuscript also portrays:

- Factionalism in the Secret Service after the assassination.
- Friction between President Johnson and Robert F. Kennedy over when the President should deliver his first message to a joint session of Congress.

- Disagreement over whether President Kennedy should be buried in Massachusetts or in Arlington National Cemetery.

"This book is full of the ineptitude of those who were supposed to protect the President," a source in the publishing industry was quoted as saying.

"It shows that the FBI men were too busy looking for places in the parade. He (Manchester) names everybody and has the quotes to back it up."

Among those named, besides FBI agents, in the book's account of the assassination in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963, are Secret Service men and Dallas policemen, the publishing source reported.

The book was said to detail how a split developed in the Secret Service after the assassination, with one faction ordering Mr. Johnson aboard Air Force One, to be sworn as President and flown along with the dead President's body, his widow and aides, to Washington.

The book also was reported to unfold a picture of Johnson and Kennedy, then Attorney General, keeping their distance from each other and using intermediaries to communicate in the days following the assassination.

According to the publishing source, the manuscript explores a disagreement between the two men after Johnson sent a message to Kennedy about his desire to address a joint session of Congress just four days

after the assassination. The President reportedly explained his plan was based on anxiety to demonstrate that

there was no break in the government's operations. But President Kennedy's brother was reported in the book to

believe the date was premature and merely exemplified Johnson's willingness to sacrifice good taste in his eagerness to

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Rifts

take over the power and trappings of the Presidency.

Johnson is said in the book to have agreed to Kennedy's

suggestion that the address be made five days after the assassination. Johnson did make the speech on the agreed date. He coupled his praise of President Kennedy with a plea for the "earliest possible passage" of the civil rights program to stamp out "every trace of discrimination and oppression."

FRICION ON OFFICES

Tension also reportedly built up between Kennedy and the President after Johnson, who kept his Vice Presidential office in the Executive Office Building while delaying moving into the White House, requested office space for his own workers in offices that had been used by President Kennedy's aides.

Manchester reportedly says in his book that he attempts to be fair about Johnson's behavior, but that there is material that can be utilized by both those who like Johnson and those who dislike him.

The decision to bury President Kennedy in Arlington reportedly is said in the book to have been insisted on by Mrs. Kennedy after most of the Kennedy faction favored Massachusetts and Secretary of Defense Robert F. McNamara held out alone for Arlington.

"The book shows Mrs. Kennedy as making 90 per cent of the decisions about the funeral and behaving with incredible courage," the publishing source reported.