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Gov. Connally 'Correcting' Manchester

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HOUSTON—Gov. John B. Connally is finishing a lengthy manuscript about the Kennedy assassination aimed at correcting "inaccuracies" in William Manchester's controversial book "Death of a President."

Connally, who has been fuming ever since excerpts from the book appeared in Look magazine last year, has been hard at work for several months on a manuscript aided by a Life magazine writer.

Connally could not be reached for comment on the manuscript.

The Texas Governor, "mad as hornet," according to friends, made a tentative beginning of his own account of the assassination shortly after the Manchester book excerpts appeared. But he was dissuaded from continuing by friends. However, the Governor declared publicly later that he intended to write his own version of the assassin-

ation one day.

"A Lot of Research"

"It's the kind of thing that takes a hell of a lot of research," said a Connally aide. "It's nearing the completion stage now but he hasn't decided whether to make it a book or a magazine piece or a series," the aide said.

Questioned further the aide admitted seeing a Life magazine writer around the Governor's office and home in Austin. He said there was "some connection" but I didn't exactly know what.

A writer for Life magazine in New York confirmed that the magazine had been working with the Texas Governor.

Blames "The Book"

Connally said last year that he was highly disturbed by the flood of articles, books, statements and lectures which have raised doubts about the Warren Commission report on the assassination.

Close friends of his say he is primarily interested in rebutting Manchester's account of President Kennedy's visit to Texas and also the unflattering references to Connally in the book.

"He wants the facts known," the aide said. "He wants to straighten out the inaccuracies in Manchester's book."

Referring to the controversial "Death of a President," the aide added: "The Manchester book triggered it all."