

outsider. Traveling hand VanDyk may also be prone to the kind of pervasive optimism that characterizes his boss. When the Veep drew the first of a succession of mediocre turnouts at his formal campaign kickoff in Philadelphia recently, VanDyk was among the stalwarts who insisted the visit was a triumph. "They really thought Philadelphia was a good show," sighs one bemused veteran of the Kennedy campaigns.

In the last analysis, Humphrey himself must bear the burden of responsibility for the caliber of his campaign and his staff. "An awful lot of criticism of the staff is the fault of the candidate himself," says one longtime intimate. "Hubert has a tendency to listen to the last guy he's talked to."

Typically, the brainstorming session last week at Washington's Madison Hotel and other strategy conferences produced few new ideas. O'Brien is whipping the organization into shape, but Humphrey himself does not appear to be looking for any fresh initiatives at all. Rather, he told his inner circle: "Listen to the tapes [of Humphrey speeches and press conferences]. I want your thinking to reflect my thinking." And that, it seemed safe to say, was just where the HHH drive was when it ran into trouble.

HISTORY:

The LBJ Brand

When author William Manchester set out to reconstruct the jumble of events surrounding the assassination of John F. Kennedy, every important door but one was opened to him. He was never granted an interview with the man in the motorcade who took Kennedy's place in the White House. When Hearst writer Jim Bishop set out on his own quest to assemble a chronology of the day JFK died, he found the research chore exactly reversed. Kennedy doors were firmly barred to him, but last May those of the White House swung wide open—and in marched Bishop to become the first author to talk to President and Mrs. Johnson about the emotion-laden events immediately following the fatal shots from the Texas School Book Depository.

The detailed results of Bishop's interviews are in his forthcoming book, "The Day Kennedy Was Shot," scheduled for publication by Funk and Wagnalls on the fifth anniversary of the assassination in Dallas. And Bishop's account clearly bears the LBJ brand. What will undoubtedly be labeled the "Johnson version" of the swirling events of Nov. 22, 1963, contrasts vividly with Manchester's "Kennedy version"—particularly regarding the highly charged relations between the Kennedy circle and the Texan suddenly thrust into the Presidency.

In Manchester's "Death of a President," JFK's successor emerges as a man somewhat crudely taking over the reins and symbols of power from the Kennedy mourners in the hectic hours immedi-



Newsweek—Bernard Gotfryd

Herb Klein uses 'the briefcase'

ELECTRONS FOR NIXON

If Richard Nixon loses the election in November it won't be because he wasn't plugged in and turned on. In marked contrast to his poorly coordinated 1960 race, Nixon's whole operation this time is a Brave New World exercise in communications gadgetry.

So advanced is Nixon's electronic arsenal that it makes TV's contraption-happy special agent Maxwell Smart seem a bit backward by comparison. When Smart wants to telephone the Chief, he has to take off his shoe and use the dial in the sole. Nixon aides need only reach for "the briefcase"—a handy leatherette attaché case that contains not yellow legal pads or a staffer's brown-bag lunch but a cordless, mobile radio telephone. Used mainly in motorcades and for trips from airports to hotels and back, the briefcase enables Communications Director Herb Klein and other staffers to stay in constant touch with headquarters in New York and Washington.

The Nixonites' other favorite gadget is the "magic carpet"—a portable Telecopier over which New York can transmit (at the rate of six minutes a page) newspaper stories, letters and other material to the touring team, wherever it is. "Say, that's a pretty good piece you did for tomorrow," Nixon aides like to tell traveling reporters, then show the startled newsmen copies of their first-edition stories, hot off the press. Nixon's No. 1 campaign jet also boasts an air-to-ground telephone for "R.N." and a telephone-linked teleprinter capable of sending and receiving in the air. And by this week, all three of Nixon's jets, Tricia, Julie and David—named for the two Nixon daughters and son-in-law-to-be David Eisenhower—will be rigged for a plane-to-plane communications system.

The only gremlin in the works is Nixon himself. When making an airborne call, he often forgets to push the "speak" button on the receiver, thinks his phone has gone dead, and asks: "Where's the call?"

ately following the assassination. Bishop's account, however, portrays the Kennedy clansmen as "desirous of making the [new] President look bad," while Mr. Johnson himself is cast as acutely cautious of offending history or the Kennedys in his movements.

The new President was "shocked," writes Bishop, by Secret Service advice that he fly immediately back to Washington in Air Force One, the Presidential plane. Bishop quotes Mr. Johnson as refusing to board the Presidential jet at all—he had flown to Dallas in the Vice Presidential plane which was standing by—"without a suggestion or permission of the Kennedy staff." Permission, Bishop states, was twice asked and received from JFK aide Kenneth O'Donnell—a point in dispute in Manchester's book.

Both authors agree that Mrs. Kennedy was distressed at finding Mr. Johnson installed in the Presidential bedroom on board the jet. But, writes Bishop, Lyndon Johnson initially instructed the stewards to hold the room for Mrs. Kennedy and only used the space himself when he discovered that it was the only place on the crowded plane in which he could make important private telephone calls.

Schism: In a brief encounter on the plane, according to Bishop, Mrs. Kennedy took Mrs. Johnson's hand in hers and said, "Oh, Lady Bird, it's good that we've always liked you two so much." But on the flight back to Washington, no such affection was apparent. The Kennedy inner circle is described as "sulking in the rear compartment" near the dead President's casket. "There were two separate and distinct camps aboard," writes Bishop, "because Mrs. Kennedy wished it so."

Whatever the reason, there were unquestionably two distinct camps on board, as Bishop's account of the missing bagman vividly dramatizes. In the immediate aftermath of the assassination, Bishop reports, a nuclear attack on the U.S. was considered a serious possibility. The secret codes that a President must use to order nuclear retaliation are kept in a locked metal suitcase carried on the President's travels by a warrant officer irreverently known as "the bagman." In the immediate chaos of Dallas, the bagman was on several occasions out of communication with Mr. Johnson. But even when the bagman was at last located, the new President had no idea how to use the codes. He had never been briefed in this critical knowledge. "The men around Kennedy," says Bishop with a rueful intelligence that could only have come from his exclusive source in the White House, "had kept the doctrines of power from Lyndon Johnson."

■ On Oct. 22, the sixth anniversary of the Cuban missile crisis, McCall's magazine will publish the personal memoir of Robert F. Kennedy on the confrontation with the Soviet Union. The late Senator's 25,000-word account of the affair, dictated a year ago and entitled "Thirteen Days," was sold by his estate for \$1 million.