

DALLAS EX-MAYOR 1/15/68 CHALLENGES BOOK

Says Manchester's Account Tries 'to Distort History'

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14 (AP)

—A former mayor of Dallas, Earle Cabell, today accused William Manchester and "his advisers" of "a deliberate attempt to distort history" in parts of a book on the assassination of President Kennedy.

Mr. Cabell, now a Democratic Representative, was Mayor at the time of the slaying Nov. 22, 1963. In a news conference today, he disputed the book's account of the removal of Mr. Kennedy's body from a Dallas hospital.

He said the account would appear in the second installment of Look magazine's serialization of the Manchester book, "The Death of a President."

Mr. Cabell said the book was critical of Dallas officials who insisted on compliance with laws dealing with the removal of bodies from the hospital and the state. The book reportedly tells of bitterness in the Kennedy party over the ensuing delay.

Critics Denounced

"Those delays referred to," said Mr. Cabell, "were criticized only by those who would have superimposed their own will and selfish desires over duly constituted laws enacted for the protection of the people as a whole."

Mr. Cabell would not name the critics but said they were identified in Mr. Manchester's book.

Asked whom he blamed for what he called the distortions in the account, Mr. Cabell said: "I blame the writer and whoever were his advisers."

A spokesman for Look magazine in New York declined comment on the charges. Mr. Manchester could not be reached for comment.

Mr. Cabell said "another

completely false allegation" in the book asserted that a Dallas city ordinance prohibited transportation of the coffin in an ambulance and that further delay was caused while a hearse was summoned to take the coffin to the airport.

No such ordinance existed, he said, adding that the coffin was taken to the hospital in a funeral coach, which remained there and transported it to the airport.

"Not one minute of delay was encountered in this transaction," he said.

"It is inconceivable to me that such irresponsible statements would be made unless the intent was not to accurately record history, but rather was to deliberately calumniate the people of Dallas and particularly those who were in any way connected with the tragic events of that day," Mr. Cabell said.