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Secretary Says John Kennedy Talked of Replacing Johnson

On Nov. 19, 1963, three days before his assassination, President Kennedy spoke of his intention of getting rid of Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson as his running mate in 1964 and the possibility of replacing him with Gov. Terry Sanford of North Carolina, according to Mrs. Evelyn Lincoln, who was Mr. Kennedy's secretary.

Mrs. Lincoln tells of the conversation in her book, "Kennedy and Johnson," to be published March 4 by Holt, Rinehart and Winston.

In Washington, Senator Robert F. Kennedy issued a statement yesterday declaring that his late brother had had no intention of replacing Mr. Johnson.

"In 1963," the Senator said, "I discussed the coming campaign many times with President Kennedy and I was well aware of his plans in connection with it. At no time did we discuss any change in the ticket; it was always clear that Lyndon Johnson would be the Vice-Presidential candidate."

Senator Kennedy, a New York Democrat, said of Mr. Johnson, "President Kennedy appreciated and welcomed his support and assistance, and gave no thought to replacing him on the ticket."

Reached by telephone yesterday at his home in Fayetteville, N. C., former Governor Sanford said of the plan reported by Mrs. Lincoln, "I never did hear anything about it and nobody ever did say anything to me about it directly or indirectly."

He added, "If Evelyn said it was so it was probably so."

Mr. Sanford, who served as Governor from 1961 to 1965

and is now 50 years old, was regarded as one of the most progressive Governors in North Carolina's history.

Since he left office, he has devoted much of his time to studies in education and state government with grants from the Ford and Carnegie Foundations. He maintains a law office in Raleigh.

President Kennedy, Mrs. Lincoln wrote, described his plans on Nov. 19 as he sat in a rocking chair in her office. He began, she said, by outlining his intention to try to change some of the rules and regulations of Congress—specifically the seniority rule—to speed the passage of legislation.

She quoted Mr. Kennedy as saying: "To do this I will need as a running mate in sixty-four a man who believes as I do. I am going to Texas because I have made a commitment. I can't patch up those warring factions. This is for them to do, but I will go because I have told them I would. And it is too early to make an announcement about another running mate—that will perhaps wait until the convention."

Mrs. Lincoln wrote: "I was fascinated by this conversation and wrote it down verbatim in my diary."

During the conversation, she said, she asked one question.

She wrote: "We had not seen Mr. Johnson since he left for Texas in late October. Now I asked, 'who is your choice as a running mate?'"

"He looked straight ahead, and without hesitating he replied, 'At this time I am thinking about Gov. Terry Sanford of North Carolina. But it will not be Lyndon.'"