

LIFE 11/18/67

ADV FOR 3 PM TODAY

NEW YORK(CNS)--IT WAS PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY, NOT THEN VICE PRESIDENT JOHNSON, TEXAS GOV. JOHN CONNALLY OR THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY IN TEXAS, WHO INITIATED PLANS FOR THE ILL-FATED TRIP TO DALLAS FOUR YEARS AGO.

WRITING IN THE CURRENT ISSUE OF LIFE MAGAZINE, CONALLY ALSO SAYS THAT THE TRIP HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH FEUDING BETWEEN JOHNSON AND SEN. RALPH YARBOROUGH, AS REPORTED AFTER THE ASSASSINATION TRAGEDY.

IN WHAT HE TERMS AN EFFORT "TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT," CONALLY SAYS THE FACT IS THAT "PRESIDENT KENNEDY WANTED TO VISIT TEXAS WITH TWO DISTINCT PURPOSES IN MIND. THE FIRST WAS TO RAISE FUNDS. THE SECOND WAS TO IMPROVE HIS OWN POLITICAL POSITION IN A STATE THAT PROMISED TO BE CRITICAL IN THE ELECTION OF 1964."

CONALLY DISMISSES AS "RIDICULOUS" THE IDEA THAT PRESIDENT KENNEDY WENT TO TEXAS TO PATCH UP A FEUD BETWEEN JOHNSON AND YARBOROUGH.

"FIRST, BOTH MEN OPERATED IN WASHINGTON, NOT IN TEXAS...AND WASHINGTON WOULD HAVE BEEN THE PLACE TO SETTLE IT," THE GOVERNOR SAYS. "SECOND, PRESIDENTS NEVER INSERT THEMSELVES INTO SUCH QUARRELS, FOR THEY CAN ONLY GET HURT.

"THIRD, THE PRESIDENT COULDN'T HAVE SETTLED IT ANYWAY; THE QUARREL IS IMPLACABLE."

THE TEXAS GOVERNOR, WHO WAS RIDING IN THE SAME LIMOUSINE WITH THE PRESIDENT AND WAS HIMSELF WOUNDED, SAYS IN LIFE THAT HE HAD BEEN PUTTING OFF PRESSURE FROM WASHINGTON TO ARRANGE A KENNEDY VISIT FOR A YEAR AND A HALF.

THE GOVERNOR REALIZED, HOWEVER, THAT A KENNEDY VISIT TO TEXAS WAS A POLITICAL NECESSITY AND EVENTUALLY WOULD HAVE TO BE ARRANGED. THE PARTY'S NATIONAL COMMITTEE WAS \$4 MILLION IN DEBT, YET TEXAS, A KEY STATE BECAUSE OF JOHNSON'S PLACE ON THE TICKET, HAD CONTRIBUTED NOTHING SINCE 1960.

ONE REASON FOR THIS LACK OF SUPPORT, CONALLY SAYS, IS THAT TEXANS "HAD NOT FORGIVEN MR. JOHNSON FOR JOINING A MAN THEY CONSIDERED HIS JUNIOR IN EXPERIENCE AND ABILITY, AND THEY CONTINUED TO RESENT HIS HAVING RELINQUISHED REAL POWER IN THE SENATE FOR THE WEAKER VICE PRESIDENCY."

PLANS FOR THE PRESIDENT'S TEXAS VISIT WERE LAUNCHED BY CONALLY AND HIS STAFF, BUT WERE SOON COMPLICATED BY THE ARRIVAL ON THE SCENE OF WASHINGTON ADVANCE MEN AND THE WHITE HOUSE STAFF.

THE BIGGEST CHANGE AND, AS IT TURNED OUT, THE SADDEST AND MOST DISASTROUS, CONALLY SAYS, TOOK PLACE IN DALLAS.

"THE WASHINGTON ADVANCE MEN WANTED A MOTORCADE. I WANTED TO SKIP THE MOTORCADE AND GO DIRECTLY TO THE TRADE MART FOR THE LUNCHEON... BUT IN THE END, I WAS OVERRULED," CONALLY SAID. "THE PRESIDENT'S ADVANCE MEN, ON THE SCENE IN DALLAS, LAID OUT THE MOTORCADE THROUGH THE HEART OF DOWNTOWN. THEN THEY RELEASED THE ROUTE ITSELF FOR PUBLICATION IN THE TUESDAY NEWSPAPERS -- A FULL THREE DAYS BEFORE THE EVENT."

IN ADDITION TO THE ARTICLE BY CONALLY, THE NOV. 24 LIFE ALSO CARRIES NINE PAGES OF PREVIOUSLY UNPUBLISHED PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE DALLAS MOTORCADE TAKEN BY BYSTANDERS AND TWO PAGES OF PICTURES OF THE PRIVATE CEREMONIES INSIDE THE WHITE HOUSE ON THE NIGHT PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S BODY WAS RETURNED TO WASHINGTON.