

Author Backs Warren Report

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William Manchester's book, "Death of a President," which has political Washington in a stir because of its unexpected early publication, will likely support the Warren Commission's conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone as the assassin of President John F. Kennedy.

Manchester, at least, told a friend not long ago that anyone as familiar as he with the multitude of details in the death of Kennedy "had to agree" with the essential validity of the commission's findings. Yet, Manchester observed, he could see how critics of the commission might be misled because some of the investigation was handled in a "slipshod" way.

Manchester, is the talented young author selected by Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy to write and authorize account of the assassination. He sat through most of the Warren Commission hearings. He had his own follow-up interviews with many questioned by the commission, plus other persons not called by the commission.

Of keener interest to politicians is the dynamite the book can set off between pro-Johnson and pro-Kennedy factions among Democrats. Neither President Johnson nor any of his staff has seen the book, which everybody has been told would be withheld from publication until Nov. 22, 1968, or later.

The Johnson people have read rumors that members of the Kennedy family, who have seen it, are worried that the book places Johnson in such an unfavorable light that it will greatly rupture the already sensitive relations between them.

Look magazine will print the first four installments from it in mid-January. The book will be out in March.

Manchester was irritated because Johnson would not give him an interview. Johnson's position was that he had made a complete statement to the Warren Commission and had nothing to add. Manches-

ter felt the missing link of a private presidential interview diminished the "official" historical significance of the book.

Mrs. Johnson talked to the writer at length, as did all members of Johnson's staff whom Manchester wanted to see. They, as well as others, understood what they said

would not appear in print until the end of 1968.

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A NEW IRRITANT between Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, D-N.Y., and the White House is Kennedy's effort to keep New York Democratic money in the state next year. Kennedy wants to pay big bills left over from this year's disaster and to start building for the 1968 campaign there.

Kennedy hopes to veto a President's Club function in New York in 1967, where each \$1,000 admission would go to the Democratic National Committee. He thinks the national party has drained more than its share of New York Democratic money in recent years and was peeved when he received no assistance from Washington in erasing his own \$900,000 deficit from his 1964 Senate campaign.

HIS JOB as LBJ's top adviser in filling federal jobs has virtually wiped out the social life of John W. Macy Jr., and is now interfering with his spiritual life.

"First," explains Macy, "I had to quit going to parties. I couldn't get into a conversation without somebody trying to tell me about a 'deserving Democrat' in need of a job. Now I have to be careful about church. People grab me there. My wife and I have learned to arrive just before the service begins, sit at the back and rush out as quickly as it is over."