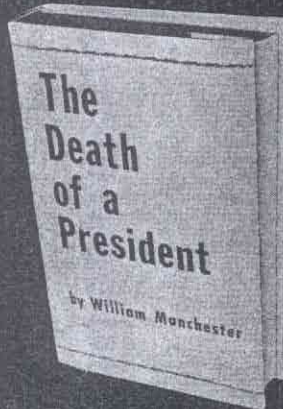


Exclusive ENQUIRER Interview

# Mayor of Dallas

At Time of the Assassination



# BLASTS Book on JFK's Death

By LLOYD WATSON

"The book isn't accurate. It isn't history," declared Representative Earle Cabell, former mayor of Dallas and an eyewitness to events the day President Kennedy died.

He was talking about William Manchester's hotly disputed book, "The Death of a President," which has been serialized in Look magazine. "It doesn't have any indication of objectivity, or of meeting the requirements of a true historian."

Cabell, as mayor of Dallas on the day that the President was murdered, was part of the fatal motorcade and saw for himself what happened at Parkland Hospital where the dying Kennedy was rushed.

He is now in Congress as a representative from Texas and on January 28, this ENQUIRER reporter interviewed him exclusively at his Washington, D.C., office.

Congressman Cabell, 59, angrily made these points:

- Mrs. Kennedy "graciously and promptly" signed a hospital form for the release of her husband's body.
- Manchester says the removal of the President's body from the hospital was delayed because of a Dallas ordinance prohibiting the transportation of a casket in an ambulance. No such ordinance ever existed.

- As it was, Dallas officials "stretched" the law in letting the body out of the state of Texas. The whole legal process took no longer than 30 minutes.

- The book gives the readers the idea local Dallas officials practically had to be "manhandled" before they would release the body.

Manchester never took the trouble to interview any of the officials involved, including Cabell.

"I want to set the record straight and clear those public officials who were only doing their sworn duty," Cabell said.

"It is inconceivable to me that such irresponsible statements would be made unless it was deliberate.

"Unless it was an attempt to belittle everyone involved who was not a member of the Kennedy entourage that day.

"State law prohibits the removal of a body from the state where death was due to violent causes without a release signed by the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor,



DEATH RIDE: President Kennedy in motorcade moments before he died.

the State Attorney General or after a coroner's inquest.

"The signatures were obviously impossible to obtain within a reasonable time because Governor Connally was in critical condition and undergoing surgery for his wounds.

"Both the Lieutenant Governor and the Attorney General were in Austin awaiting the arrival of the President who was scheduled to go there that evening.

"Dr. Earl Rose, the Dallas County Medical Examiner, raised this legal point and properly so. That was his duty.

"I asked Dr. Rose if he could stand aside and let the responsibility for releasing the body lie with a Justice of the Peace.

"I told him I would assume full responsibility for making this request as the mayor of Dallas. Dr. Rose agreed



MANCHESTER

to do this and I immediately got on the police radio, and Justice of the Peace Theron Ward was at the hospital within ten minutes.

"That's the story," Congressman Cabell said, leaning back in his chair.

"The whole thing couldn't have taken 30 minutes."

Asked about implied criticism in Manchester's book of Parkland Hospital personnel who stuck to established practice and made out the usual emergency card on the dying President, Cabell said, "That to me falls into the realm of nit-picking.

"It is an indication of a very sordid type of mind that would criticize a proper record being made of anything of that significance.

"If such records weren't kept, there would have been charges of sloppy handling of a very serious matter.

"I don't know why Manchester wrote what he did. I can only take the work as it has been published.

"There is only one implication — the man doesn't know what he's talking about."



EX-MAYOR Earle Cabell says that the Manchester book is not accurate.