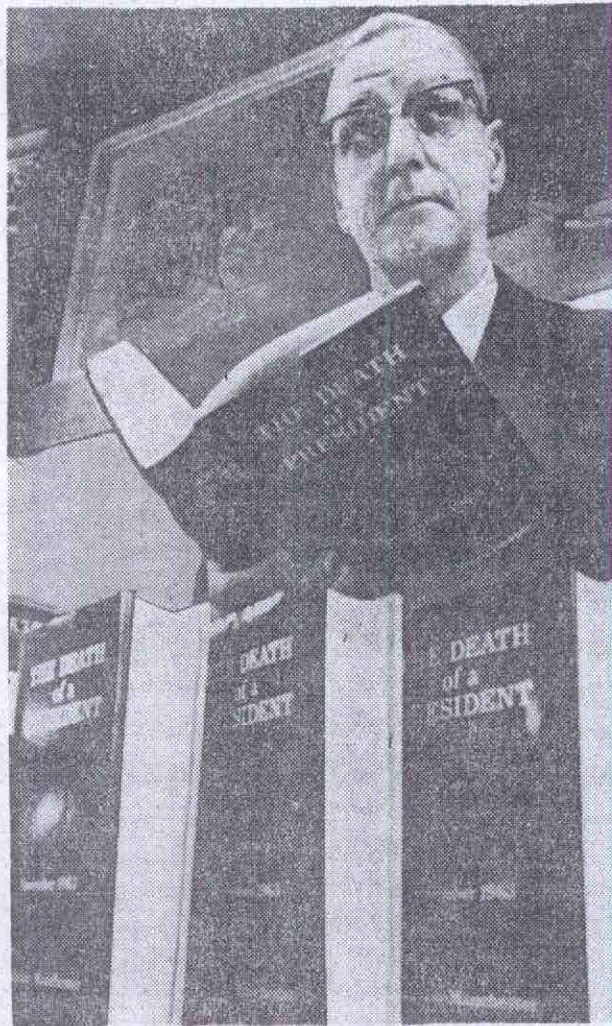


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Stores Here Divided Over Observing Publication Date of Manchester Book



Associated Press

ADVANCE SALE—Charles Stryker, clerk in a Pittsburgh book store, poses with a display of "The Death of a President," sold before its release date.

By Jean R. Hailey

Washington Post Staff Writer

Copies of William Manchester's "The Death of A President" will arrive soon in Washington. Area stores are divided on whether they will stick to the official April 7 publication date before putting the book on sale or start selling it when it gets here.

But all are agreed that the demand for advance copies has been well beyond average and all expect there will be a heavy volume of sales from the shelf.

Another in a series of fiascos involving the book erupted Monday in Pittsburgh, where department stores and major book stores started selling the books prematurely.

Yesterday, after they had received telegrams of protest from the book's publisher, Harper & Row, the Pittsburgh stores took the book off their shelves.

The shipments of the book destined for Washington probably will get here at the end of this week or the beginning of next.

But such stores as the Savile Bookshop, 3236 P st. nw., expect to hold off on shelf sales until April 7. Advance orders will be sent out as soon as the book arrives.

The Discount Book Shop, 1342 Connecticut ave. nw., will send out its advance orders immediately and will put the book on the shelf at the same time.

The E. J. Korvette department store will start selling right away but Woodward & Lothrop plans to observe the official publication date "if the other major stores do."

The list price of the book is \$10 and many stores said they plan to hold to that price. The discount stores said, however, that they would adhere to their regular discount policy. Korvette's, for example, plan to sell the book for \$8.29 and the Discount Book Shop for \$8.