

10 Johnson Photos Show Manchester

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By ARTHUR GREENSPAN

The White House will not release any other photos of President Johnson inside the Presidential jet in Dallas after the assassination.

Those pictures would prove that five of the late President Kennedy's male aides either were there when Johnson took the oath of office or were around after the ceremony.

And the photos would clearly discredit author William Manchester's contention in his controversial "The Death of A President," that "no male Kennedy aide" could be seen in pictures taken Nov. 22, 1963 inside Air Force One when Johnson was sworn in, or in photos taken

immediately afterward.

"The negatives or pictures are not available at this time," Press Secretary George Christian told The New York Post after requests were made for the photos.

"If they should become available, we'll let you know. But from what I know of the situation, I don't think we want to become involved in this."

Keeping Out Of It

Once again it's obvious the Executive Branch is sticking to its hands-off policy in the turmoil over portions of Manchester's book. The posture of silence was struck weeks ago when passages from the book critical of Johnson were met

with no official comment from the White House.

Just last week, a photo became public—not from the White House—which showed Kennedy aides Kenneth O'Donnell and the late President's personal physician, Adm. Burkley, standing near Jacqueline Kennedy during the swearing-in.

And Maj. Cecil Stoughton, the Armed Forces photographer, the only cameraman aboard the plane, said his other negatives definitely show Brig. Gen. Ted Clifton, Dave Powers and Larry O'Brien, now the Postmaster-General, in various poses.

"I made some 19 or 20 pictures in all," Stoughton told The Post. "There were seven with

Error

Mr. Johnson's hand raised taking the oath. Others show them consoling Mrs. Kennedy immediately after the ceremony.

"Some of the pictures were made with the wide-angle Hassleblad camera, shot at f/16 with a strobe light; others were made on a 35-millimeter camera by existing light.

Four Photos Released

"We released from Dallas, within the hour after the swearing-in four different pictures, including a head shot of the President. Two others showed the widow being comforted; and then there was the swearing-in picture.

"How were they chosen? Well, it was a matter of editorial

selection. Some were not as clear as others, and we released the best."

Stoughton has been quoted as saying that Manchester did not ask to see all the negatives, and this might explain the author's error in the book.

During a television interview last weekend, Manchester said he was skeptical that so many aides could be seen in different negatives. But it promised he would check, and if in error, would correct later editions of his book.

But the negatives now belong to the White House, Stoughton pointed out.

"As a matter of continuity, all the pictures made up until the swearing-in belong to the Kennedy archives, and all those from the minute of the swearing-in belong to the Johnson archives. They were all turned over to the White House. I don't have them any more."

Manchester Replies

In a letter published in today's New York Times, Manchester takes issue with an earlier letter by Richard N. Goodwin, a Kennedy family adviser. In his letter published Jan. 23, Goodwin asserted that almost a third of the controversial book was changed as a result of suggestions by both the publisher and representatives of

the Kennedy family.

"This is absurd," Manchester retorts. "No significant deletions were suggested by the publisher . . . The dispute was resolved when Mrs. Kennedy herself read the page proofs. At her request I struck out certain phrases and sentences which she considered personal. Altogether these constituted less than 1 per cent of the book."

In reply to Goodwin's contention that "objectionable passages," of the original manuscript were "fictional," Manchester says that "last April, at his request, I loaned Mr. Goodwin a copy of that original manuscript. To me and to mutual friends he expressed only admiration for the style and documentation of the work."