

Manchester must have been impressed by what he calls the "chronology". He uses it on the inside cover and the facing page and again in a special appendix (655ff). It serves to concentrate his error, illuminate his concept of the assassination (where most of the real news and the important events were social and had nothing to do with the murder, which is barely a coincidence to him) and to put him in conflict with himself. In what little he pretends to report of the assassination and what is really germane, he is almost entirely wrong by the evidence of the Commission with which he agrees.

His chronology has Oswald awkening at 6:30 a.m. Dallas time to hurry off to his deed, In his Look serialization, over which he had control and which appeared under his name - and for which he was paid more than any writer in history - he sets this time a half hour later. Both versions are wrong, as we shall see later. Likewise, he declares that at 8:55 p.m. - not a minute before or later mind you, for his listings are presented with that precision - 8:23 this, 1:31 $\frac{1}{2}$ that - Oswald on the night before "checks his carbine (C2766)." This is superb fiction, with the starkness and reality Manchester intended to impart to it. But it is is fiction. There is no proof that the C2766 rifle was at the Paine residence, in the garage, and all the evidence is to the contrary. There is absolutely no evidence - and there were convenient witnesses - that he touched that or any other weapon at that time. Can one imagine the satisfaction of the Commission if it could have produced testimony remotely approximating Manchester's invention that he unashamedly presents as something other than the ~~fruit~~ ^{child} of his imagination ~~and~~ that it is, self-sired by his concept of his function and his abandonment of responsibility that more than any subject in recent history demands of any writer the utmost in faithfulness to fact? This is invention, nothing else, in keeping with the spirit of the novel Manchester wrote, the style of its writing, and his contempt for history, the country, its people and honor and the family he pretends to ^{have} loved.