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Walter Scott's

# Personal Parade

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**Q.** *I would like to know who picked William Manchester to write *The Death of a President*—was it Jackie Kennedy, Joseph Kennedy or Bobby Kennedy or all three?—Louise Van Deusen, Amsterdam, N.Y.*

**A.** It was Pierre Salinger, John F. Kennedy's press secretary. In the months following the President's assassination, Jacqueline Kennedy, Robert Kennedy and Pierre Salinger considered at least three writers for the post of "official chronicler" of Kennedy's death. The number-one choice was Theodore H. White, who wisely enough declined to write an authorized account. White is the author of two campaign books on *The Making of the President*. Another choice was Walter Lord, author of *Day of Infamy* and *A Night to Remember*. The third choice was Manchester, who had previously written an adulatory work on Kennedy, *Portrait of a President*. Salinger felt strongly that Manchester should get the post, and he was appointed. In retrospect, Salinger is convinced that he goofed in recommending Manchester.