

LOOK'S STORY

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A quarrel among Texas Democrats took John F. Kennedy to Dallas against the advice of friends, and Lee Harvey Oswald's rejection by his wife was the coincidental trigger that led him to assassinate the president.

These factors emerge in new detail in the first installment of William Manchester's book, "The Death of a President," published in Look magazine. The magazine will appear on newsstands Tuesday.

Manchester's account of the 1963 tragedy, subject of a court battle by Mrs. John F. Kennedy, also disclosed that at the time of his death the president was considering replacing Secretary of State Dean Rusk, probably with Robert McNamara; was studying French to negotiate with Gen. Charles de Gaulle in his own language; and was planning a trip to Japan to restore American prestige lost when leftist riots prevented a visit by President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

The assertion about Rusk revived an old report by Washington columnists Stewart and Joseph Alsop.

ON JFK BOOK

denied at the time by former members of the Kennedy administration. Manchester said: "Aware that the president intended to be his own foreign minister, Rusk had leaned on him increasingly in other ways. . . . After the second inaugural, the cabinet would almost certainly be headed by Secretary of State Robert McNamara.

"Bobby (Sen. Robert F. Kennedy) had tentatively decided that once Rusk had left, he would ask to be assistant secretary of inter-American affairs," Manchester reported.

The condensation of the first four chapters of the book published in the current Look said Kennedy felt the trip to Dallas was an "imposition" because Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson ought to have been able to resolve the "petty dispute" between Texas politicians himself. Manchester reported that heated discussions of the matter with Johnson marred the president's last night alive.

At almost the same hour on Nov. 21, 1963, Mrs.

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Oswald was toying with the emotions of her near-crazed husband in the home of Mrs. Ruth Paine in Irving, Tex., where she had taken refuge from her unhappy marriage. Manchester maintained she drove Oswald over the brink of insanity that evening by rejecting the gift of a washing machine, saying she "had found asylum here with Ruth" and "could manage without him."

Look's serialization was published with an editor's note stating that neither Mrs. Kennedy nor

Robert Kennedy "has in any way approved or endorsed" the material in the articles. Mrs. Kennedy brought suit Dec. 18 to prevent Manchester, Look and the publishing firm of Harper & Row from publishing the book without her authorization. A settlement was reached with Look, involving some deletions and modifications. Look paid \$665,000 for the 60,000-word serialization.

A magazine spokesman said, "only one minor modification was made in the first installment, strictly relating to Mrs. Kennedy's personal feelings and in no way bearing on political and historical events." Informed sources said the modification involved an intimate letter the former First Lady wrote her husband from Greece during a vacation a month before the assassination. The serialization says only that she told him "how much she missed him" in the letter.

CAN'T STAND HIM

The Manchester account dealt frankly, however, with her reactions to Texas Gov. John B. Connally Jr., who accompanied the Kennedys on their appearances in San Antonio, Houston, Fort Worth and Dallas, where Connally was wounded by Kennedy's assassin. It said she told her husband, "I can't stand him all day. He's just one of those men . . . I just can't bear his sitting there saying all these great things about himself. And he seems to be needling you all day."

"You mustn't say you'll dislike him, Jackie," the President is quoted as replying. "You'll begin thinking it, and it will prejudice how you act toward him . . . what he was really saying in the car was that he's going to run ahead of me in Texas. Well, that's all right. Let him . . ."

Manchester said Kennedy agreed to go to Texas to cloak a rift between Connally, a conservative, and Sen. Ralph Yarborough, a liberal, with a show of solidarity. Without a truce, Kennedy and Johnson felt,

"the national ticket wouldn't stand a chance there next Fall in the 1964 elections," the book said. It added that Kennedy had made up his mind not to alienate Connally while standing by Yarborough.

FEARED FOR JFK

Kennedy went to Texas forwarned for possible trouble by Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey of Minnesota, House whip Hale Boggs of Louisiana, United Nations Ambassador Adlai E. Stevenson, Sen. J. Williams Fulbright of Arkansas, and Texas Democratic National Committeeman Byron Skelton. Skelton felt so strongly he flew to Washington to try to prevent the visit, but to no avail. The book said these men feared embarrassment to the President, not assassination.

Manchester described Kennedy's attitude as "the thought that an American president would not go into any American city was simply unacceptable." But, the author said, Kennedy had "committed the ultimate outrage" by challenging Dallas' "tribal instincts" rooted in the old frontier and violently opposed to Kennedy's New Frontier of "diversity, tolerance and non-conformity."

"To be sure, the Dallas assassin did not belong to a conventional criminal conspiracy," Manchester wrote. "Lee Harvey Oswald was called a loner . . . yet no man lives in a void. His very act is conditioned by his time and his society . . . there was something in Dallas unrelated to conventional politics—a disease of the spirit, a shrill hysterical note suggestive of a deeply troubled society."

The political maneuvering which greeted Kennedy in Texas was illustrated by Connally's attempts to make Yarborough ride in Johnson's limousine in the motorcade, the book said. Yarborough took the counsel of his liberal advisers, who warned of a Connally-Johnson political plot, and rode elsewhere. Manchester said the press corps drew the obvious

conclusion and Johnson "was losing face" as a result of the snub.

The book said the Yarborough matter was subject to a loud discussion in a Houston hotel room after the first day of the Texas visit, but Manchester reported that precisely what was said is unknown.

Mrs. Kennedy could hear the discussion as she sat in an adjacent room, studying a speech she was to deliver in Spanish. Hotel personnel who entered and left the suite heard Yarborough's name on a number of occasions. Manchester reported that Johnson kept his well-known anger under tight rein while with the President, but one man who saw him leave said the Vice President appeared to be seething with anger.

When the discussion had ended, Mrs. Kennedy asked the President what it had concerned, noting that Johnson had seemed irate. Manchester said the President did not appear unduly concerned, attributing the tone of the confrontation to Johnson's basic temperament. But he did observe that Johnson was "in trouble."

Manchester said that Johnson later denied that he and Kennedy were seriously at odds, although he acknowledged that the discussion had been heated. Johnson, continuing, then appeared to have contradicted himself about the apparent dispute, but did not detail the subject of the meeting.

PRESIDENT PLEASED

The book contains such footnotes to history as Kennedy's displeasure with his Air Force aide, Brig. Gen. Godfrey McHugh, whose predictions on cold weather in Texas proved wrong after Mrs. Kennedy had packed a woolen wardrobe. The president was pictured as greatly pleased by his wife's enthusiasm over sharing the trip. He hoped she would have a good time so that she would be encouraged to make similar journeys with him.

The president personally passed on her wardrobe for the trip, telling her she would be mingling with wealthy GOP ladies attired in costly furs and jewels.

The President advised his wife to set an example of tastefulness for the Texans.

Manchester outlined Oswald's deprived childhood and his growing feeling of rejection which developed into paranoia. He described his wife's preference for living with Mrs.

Paine, an ordained Unitarian minister and mother of two who was separated from her husband, as the straw that broke Oswald's slender hold on sanity.

According to the book, both Mrs. Paine and Marina Oswald left Oswald with no doubt that his presence in the house was unwelcome, although he would be permitted to see his children from time to time. They wanted him to know that Marina and Mrs. Paine intended to have a life without him.

MARINA'S LETTERS

Manchester used correspondence between Mrs. Oswald—now Mrs. Kenneth J. Porter—and Mrs. Paine which was published by the Warren Commission.

Mrs. Oswald was unhappy about her life with her husband, and Mrs. Paine assured her that she would be more than pleased to serve as an aunt to her. Mrs. Oswald responded with enthusiasm and gratitude to the idea of living with Mrs. Paine.

Manchester blamed Mrs. Oswald for using Mrs. Paine as a pawn in her differences with Oswald and for failing to divulge to her protectress the disturbing things she knew about her husband. She did not tell Mrs. Paine about his aliases, his attempt to shoot Gen. Edwin Walker, the rifle he had concealed in a neighborhood garage and his plans to go to Cuba.