

Gen. Clifton said that on that tense plane coming back from Dallas with the body of the slain President he had so much to do he wasn't very aware of the anti-Johnson sentiment described in the Manchester book. As the man who carried the little black bag, or "the football" as it is called, his place from then on was by President Johnson, who was the only man in the world who could make the decision to use it.

As for President Johnson flying back to Washington in Air Force One instead of the plane he flew to Dallas in, the two planes were identical, said the general, with the exception that the communications men on Air Force One were more experienced. There had been no question in his mind that that's the plane Johnson should be on. But he doubts if Johnson had anything to do with the decision anyhow because the Secret Service handles such arrangements.

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Despite the fire that...