

Johnson Says Kennedy Men Undermined New Regime

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Lyndon B. Johnson has said that some of the Kennedy aides he retained tried deliberately to undermine his administration.

The former President did not name those he thought had betrayed him. But in the third installment of his televised memoirs, Mr. Johnson said that in order to heal divisions in the country, he had retained the Cabinet and White House staff of the assassinated president.

"So I endured some handi-caps, and I suffered some heartaches, some disappoint-

ments," he said, "because of my desire to try to present a united front."

"Some of the people who served did not share either the desire or the hopes that I had for the country and for the government, and . . . they, in effect, undermined the administration and bored from within to create problems for us and leaked information that was slanted and things of that nature. A good many of them resigned at certain periods and left the impression that the government was not in keeping with their views."

The former president was asked by his interviewer, Walter Cronkite, whether Robert Kennedy, then Attorney General and later aspirant for Mr. Johnson's post, had led this clique of dissidents.

"I can't answer that question honestly and directly," Mr. Johnson replied. "I don't know."

Then he softened his bitter remarks about the departed assistants. Some left, he said, because they were grief-stricken over the death of John F. Kennedy.

This final installment of Mr. Johnson's memoirs was broadcast over the Columbia Broadcasting System television network last night. Like the first two, it was filmed last September and October at the former President's ranch.

See JOHNSON, A15, Col. 1

JOHNSON, From A1

The assassination and transition to a new administration were the central topics. But the underlying theme was Mr. Johnson's complicated relationship with the murdered President, his family and his passionate assistants.

Mr. Johnson added no significant details to the bloody tale of Mr. Kennedy's death in Dallas. However, the former President had ordered portions of his filmed interview deleted on "national security" grounds.

These reportedly dealt with his doubts that the murder was the work of a lone killer and whether Lee Harvey Oswald's defection to the Soviet Union had not influenced his deed.

When Mr. Johnson heard that John Kennedy was dead, his first thought, he recalled, was that "this is a terrifying thing that may have international consequences, that this might be an international conspiracy of some kind."

"The greatest shock that I can recall," Mr. Johnson said, came after the shooting, at Parkland Memorial Hospital, when Kenneth O'Donnell, Mr. Kennedy's appointments secretary, bleakly told the new President: "He's gone."

Mr. Johnson acted without hesitation. He ordered the announcement of the death delayed until he had left Parkland in an unmarked car for the waiting presidential plane.

"So that if it were an in-

ternational conspiracy and they were out to destroy our form of government and the leaders in that government, that we would minimize the opportunity for doing so."

At the plane, Mr. Johnson said he called the Attorney General, and Robert Kennedy advised him to take the oath of office at once.

Mr. Johnson praised the fallen president's brother for what he called his "business-like" demeanor, "although I guess he must have been suffering more than almost anyone except Mrs. Kennedy. He told me what he'd do and he did it."

Mrs. Kennedy Recalled

In his "The Death of a President," William Manchester reported that the Kennedy entourage on Air Force One displayed bitterness towards the new President. But Mr. Johnson said he was not aware of this then or during the early days of his rule.

"I have seen, heard those reports. I think there must have been a calculated effort on somebody's part, I don't know who, to try and make it appear that I didn't get along with the President's staff.

He dismissed tales that Mrs. Kennedy was cold to him, recalling that she "talked to me and expressed herself to me a number of times." If the stories were true, "there would have to be a lot of hypocrisy involved, and I know that term should never be associated with Jacqueline Kennedy."

Mr. Johnson, however, betrayed some hurt feelings over the debarkation at An-

draws Air Force Base. The widow and the slain President's aides escorted the coffin down the ramp, leaving the new President standing alone.

"It didn't occur to me that . . . we would not be privileged to go down the same ramp with the body . . . I just observed it, as I did a good many things."

'Cordial, Not Intimate'

Mr. Johnson described his own relations with Mr. Kennedy as "friendly, cordial, but not personally intimate."

Mr. Johnson said his presidency was plagued by comparisons with a man whose style had become a legend.

"I had many problems in my conduct of the office, being contrasted with President Kennedy's . . . with my manner of dealing with

things and his manner, with my accent and his accent, with my background and his background. He was a great public hero and anything that I did that someone didn't approve of, they would always feel that President Kennedy wouldn't have done that — that he would have done it in a different way."

Advice From Ike

Mr. Johnson told a little known story of his second day in office, Nov. 24, 1963. Former President Eisenhower motored down from his Gettysburg, Pa., farm and in the presidential office, wrote out a memo of advice.

Mr. Eisenhower urged Mr. Johnson to call first on Robert B. Anderson, the Texas millionaire who had been the last Republican secre-

tary of the treasury and who is now an investment banker. The former President said that the new President should seek Anderson's counsel on the bill to cut taxes decisively.

Mr. Eisenhower also suggested that Mr. Johnson address a joint session of Congress and pledge an administration without favoritism for any interest group. He also proposed that the new President make the tax bill his first order of business.

"And he started moving forward," Mr. Johnson recalled with satisfaction.

There was one glimpse of the famous Johnson treatment, as the former President told how he had persuaded a reluctant Chief Justice Earl Warren to head the commission investigating the assassination.

*carefully edit out the part about
re this would be Warren's fault*

With a glint in his eyes, Mr. Johnson remembered lecturing Warren:

"You're not going to tell me that if the President of the United States says to you that you must do this for your country so that we can resolve once and for all without a peradventure of a doubt, what happened here, that you're not going to say 'No' — are you?"

"And he said, 'No, I'm not.' And that was that."

But repeatedly, Cronkite led him back to his tortured ties with the murdered President's kin.

Mr. Johnson said he had stood by the tragic family in "every moment of sorrow." Once, he suggested that they had not all returned his loyalty, but he broke off the phrase in mid-sentence.