

7/21/67

LETTERS

Tribute to Texans

In your report on William Manchester's first draft of "The Death of a President" (NATIONAL AFFAIRS, July 17) there is a quote, allegedly made by me, indicating my attitude toward the assassination of President Kennedy and toward a state of the union and its residents.

I have no recollection of ever having made such a statement. And I am certain there is no evidence that any such statement was ever made; it is groundless in light of the continuing friendships which I have with many distinguished public servants from Texas—Walter Jenkins, Bill Moyers, Cliff Carter and others.

Although following the assassination I made it clear that I would resign from the White House staff after the 1964 election, there has never been, at any time, a feeling of resentment or bitterness between President Johnson and myself.

The insinuations which might be drawn from Mr. Manchester's purported quote are grossly unfair to the citizens of Texas. Mr. Dave Powers and I, who rode in the car directly behind the President at the time of the assassination, attested before the Warren commission that we had been delighted with the reception which he was given by the people of Dallas. Any inference or conclusion drawn from the geographic location of the crime and relating to the attitude or patriotism of the people of Texas is totally misguided and un-American.

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