Author Corrects 18 Items In 'Death Of A President'

NEW YORK (AP) — Author William Manchester has made 18 corrections for the planned 25,000-copy second-run printing of "The Death of a President," a book that sold out its first-run of 600,000 copies in less than two months, the publishers disclosed.

The announcement Sunday by Harper & Row said most of the corrections deal with typographical errors and misspellings. But one important correction, a spokesman said, deletes the reference to no major Kennedy aides being present when Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson was sworn in as president.

The swearing-in occurred on the presidential plane in Dallas on the afternoon President John F. Kennedy was assassinated, Nov. 22, 1963.

Manchester's original version carried the sentence: "The photographer did not record the presence of a single major Kennedy aide" in the cabin of Air Force One, where the ceremony was performed.

The Boston Globe last Feb. 9 reproduced previously unpublished photographs by White House photographer Cecil Stoughton which showed Kenneth O'Donnell, then a White House secretary, standing next to Jacqueline Kennedy at the swearing-in.

A Harper & Row spokesman said the manuscript sentence, "Ken O'Donnell withdrew to the corridor" was taken out, and another sentence was changed to indicate that two other Kennedy aides, Mary Gallagher and Marty Underwood, watched O'Donnell at the ceremony.

Manchester, whose friendship with the Kennedy family deteriorated into arguments and then a court suit over his book before it was published with certain agreed-upon deletions, said of the second printing:

"I have considered all the suggestions submitted to me for changes, and in practically all cases the book as it was originally published is, in my opinion, the accurate version."

The Harper & Row spokesman denied published reports that sales of the Manchester book were unusually slow. More than a million copies — including Book-of-the-Month Club issues printed by the club, not by Harper — have been sold since the work was first published April 7, the spokesman said.