

Picture Contradicts Manchester, Shows O'Donnell at Oath-Taking

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Special to The Washington Post
BOSTON, Feb. 9—Kenneth P. O'Donnell did attend the oath-taking of President Johnson following the assassination of President Kennedy.

A never-before published photograph provided to the Boston Globe proves he was there.

The picture graphically contradicts William Manchester's account of the oath-taking as contained in this week's Look magazine serialization of his book, "The Death of a President."

Manchester reported that no male Kennedy aide attended the swearing-in of President Johnson at the hastily arranged ceremony aboard the presidential plane at Love Field, just outside Dallas.

The point is made by Manchester to emphasize what he describes as intense acrimony that existed between the Kennedy and Johnson staffs amid the horror of the tragedy.

The author depicts O'Donnell on the plane as "pacing the corridor outside the bedroom like a caged tiger, his hands clapped over his ears as though to block the oath."

When reached today, O'Donnell disputed Manchester's account, which has been buffeted from various quarters from the start of the serialization.

(In Washington, Malcolm Kilduff, the acting White House news secretary who was aboard Air Force One, corroborated O'Donnell's recollections. "Kenny was all right," he said. "Kenny kept his head.")

"I was standing next to Jackie through the whole ceremony," declared O'Donnell. "I walked with her from the bedroom, to where the ceremony took place, and I stayed with her the whole time."

The picture bears out O'Donnell.

It was taken by the only

cameraman allowed on board the Air Force One to record the event, Cecil Stoughton, who was the official White House photographer during the Kennedy Administration.

Stoughton acknowledges the reprint as being from "negative No. 1A-18-63."

The photo shows O'Donnell standing next to Mrs. Kennedy. President Johnson has his right arm raised while U.S. District Court Judge Sarah Huges administers the oath of office.

Except for the inclusion of O'Donnell, the picture is identical with the photo widely published of the oath-taking.



Associated Press

NEW PHOTO—The Boston Globe yesterday released this wide-angle photo, hitherto unpublished, of the presidential oath ceremony in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963. The picture, made by White House photographer Cecil W. Stoughton,

shows Kenneth P. O'Donnell, a top aide to President Kennedy, at extreme right, thus contradicting William Manchester's account in which he said O'Donnell was pacing a corridor away from the ceremony.