

# Connally Says Texas Trip Was Kennedy's Own Idea

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Austin, Tex., Jan. 11 — Gov. John Connally claimed yesterday that President Kennedy's popularity was declining and this prompted him to come to Dallas, where he was assassinated in 1963.

Connally said he no longer had a choice to remain silent on the controversial trip because of the publication of William Manchester's book, "Death of a President," the first serialized installment of which appeared yesterday on the newsstands in Look magazine.

## Plans Own Publication

This account of the trip, Connally said, "is a recitation of recollections and observations collected and reflected through the prisms of prejudice."

Connally said he plans a pub-

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lication of his own to counteract the Manchester book's statements about him.

He charged the Manchester book "cannot . . . qualify as factual history."

Connally read a statement to newsmen but would not answer any questions on the subject.

The governor was in the car when Mr. Kennedy was assassinated by Lee Harvey Oswald on Nov. 22, 1963, in Dallas, and himself was gravely wounded by the sniper.

## 'Astonishing Propaganda'

"The first published installment from the book, 'The Death of a President,' represented as an 'authorized and authentic history,' turns out to be an astonishing propaganda instrument cleverly woven to reflect favorably on those who gave it birth, while rudely discrediting others involved. It is filled with editorial comment based on unfounded rumor, distortion and inconsistency," Connally said.

"This transparent attempt to dictate history through a captive voice is shocking."

As an example, Connally noted Manchester's report that Kennedy came to Texas to settle a "local political argument."

"To the extent that there was any significant argument prior to the trip, it was between then Vice President Johnson and Senator (Ralph) Yarborough, both of whom were readily available in Washington.

"The fact is it is common knowledge that this was part of a series of political trips of President Kennedy's own making, planned in the wake of polls reflecting declining popularity."