

Look Book Review

JFK Aide

NEW YORK (AP) — Immediately after President John F. Kennedy's assassination, one of his aides is quoted as wondering if Lyndon B. Johnson could be

Wanted To Dump LBJ In '64

dumped as Democratic candidate in 1964, presumably in favor of Robert F. Kennedy.

William Manchester, in the fourth and final installment of Look magazine's serialization of his book, "The Death of a President," also says President Kennedy had selected Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara as his next secretary of state, intending to replace Dean Rusk.

Regarding the 1964 nomination, Manchester writes of Kennedy's White House aide, Arthur Schlesinger Jr.:

"Concern over the new president grew. Schlesinger wondered whether Lyndon Johnson should be his party's candidate in the coming election. He conferred with Chairman John Bailey, asking him whether it would be possible to deny the new president the nomination."

Manchester says Bailey, Democratic national chairman, said it might be technically feasible, but would cost the Democrats the election.

Later in the installment, Manchester quotes John Kenneth Galbraith, writer and economist, as saying of Schlesinger that he "was dwelling on the possibility of a ticket in 1964 headed by Bob Kennedy and Hubert Humphrey."

Instead, Johnson ran with Humphrey in 1964 and scored a landslide victory over Republican Barry Goldwater.

Schlesinger said in reply to the account by Manchester that his question to Bailey "was unaccompanied by any urging that President Johnson be replaced, or by any expression of concern about his qualification, or by any supposition that he would be superseded by Robert Kennedy in 1964."

At the first cabinet meeting after the assassination, Manchester said Atty. Gen. Robert F. Kennedy inadvertently arrived late, and that Johnson took this as an intentional snub.

The author adds: "Clearly, Johnson regarded the late president's brother as a formidable obstacle."

At Mrs. John F. Kennedy's suite in Bethesda Naval Hospital the night of the assassination, Manchester says Secretary McNamara was asked by Charles Bartlett, a newspaper columnist and friend of the president, whether he knew he was supposed to be secretary of state in Kennedy's second term.

"Charlie had heard it from the president," Manchester went on. "The secretary of defense nodded slowly. 'I don't know what I could have done about policy, but I could have helped with the administration,' he said."

Manchester writes that it was Nicholas Katzenbach, acting as attorney general during Robert Kennedy's bereavement, who

proposed an investigation of the assassination by the commission that Chief Justice Earl Warren later headed.

Katzenbach. Manchester says learned that Johnson tentatively had decided upon a Texas commission, which would exclude all non-Texans. To head off this plan, Katzenbach was said to have gone to Abe Fortas, a Washington attorney close to Johnson.

"He bluntly labelled Johnson's idea a ghastly mistake," the author says.

Manchester mentions that during the first days after the Nov. 22, 1963, assassination the possibility of a conspiracy haunted Washington. It was heightened when the accused assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald, was shot to death Nov. 24, 1963, by Jack Ruby.

The Secret Service sought to dissuade Johnson from walking behind the gun carriage carrying Kennedy's body during the funeral. Johnson was said to have at first agreed. Later, he was quoted as saying Mrs. Johnson told him he should march "so I changed my mind."

After his election as president in 1964, Manchester said Johnson seemed to forget that he had asked President Kennedy's aides to stay on in his administration. The author said "The very mention of their names would annoy him" and that within a year he was so resentful of the Kennedy aura that

any White House employe who wore a PT109 tie clip "would run the risk of incurring the presidential wrath."

The final installment is marked by poignant personal passages.

There is Mrs. Kennedy's successful fight to have the presidential coffin sealed, even though Manchester says the president's face was not damaged by the assassin's bullets.

"They have to remember Jack alive," Mrs. Kennedy is quoted. Robert Kennedy sided with her.