

# Dump LBJ Idea Pursued By JFK Aide--Manchester

By ARTHUR EVERETT

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 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.

At the first cabinet meeting after the assassination, Manchester said Attorney General 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 assassina-

tion, 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."

The Look serialization concludes with a hitherto unpublished letter from Mrs. Kennedy to the then Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev. Written 10 days after the assassination it says in part:

"YOU AND he were adversaries, but you were allied in a determination that the world should not be blown up. You respected each other and could deal with each other. I know that President Johnson will make every effort to establish the same relationship with you . . . and he will need your help."

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 labeled 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."

JOHNSON was said to have wanted to address the Congress on the Tuesday after the assassination, to demonstrate the fact that a new administration had taken over. Sargent Shriver, the late President's brother-in-law, agreed to take the matter up with Robert Kennedy.

Manchester writes that Shriver "realized that Asia, Africa and South America would assume that 'whoever had killed President Kennedy would now be president'—dispelling that notion was important."

Robert Kennedy preferred that Johnson's address be postponed until Wednesday, at least one day after the funeral. Johnson agreed.

MANCHESTER writes that Johnson never was in any hurry to evict Mrs. Kennedy from her White House quarters. He adds:

"It was the chief executive's office in the west wing that he wanted, not the pomp of the executive mansion."

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 a passage describing White House nurse Maude Shaw's desperate but vain appeal that it not fall to her lot to inform Caroline and John Kennedy of their father's death.

"Please no," the nurse is quoted, "Let this cup pass from me . . . please, please, can't someone else do it?"

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.

MANCHESTER describes Mrs. Kennedy and Caroline approaching the sealed casket after funeral services to say a final goodbye, with the child instructed "kiss him goodbye, and tell daddy how much we love him and how much we'll always miss him."

The author writes that a casual suggestion from Mrs. Kennedy led young John to salute his father's coffin in a memorable scene that moved the nation.

Also, there is Manchester's description of how the news of the assassination was broken to the President's father, Joseph Kennedy, incapacitated at the time by a stroke. The author writes of this presumably steel-hearted man:

"When his oldest son had been killed in action, he had been well. Nevertheless, he had wept then, and he wept now."

MANCHESTER says that during his first full day in office President Johnson's "chameleon nature has never been more evident."

But at one point, the account continues, Johnson appeared anguished as he told British ambassador David Ormsby-Gore brokenly:

"If my family took a vote on whether or not I'd stay, there would be three votes for quitting right away—and maybe four."