

The Pentagon vs.

What Was Left Out On Jackie

By ARTHUR GREENSPAN

Some of the most poignant episodes concerning Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy and the drama which followed the assassination of President Kennedy — episodes which were rewritten or deleted from William Manchester's book "The Death of a President" became known today.

The changes can best be understood by comparing what Manchester reportedly wrote in his original version of certain events involving Mrs. Kennedy with the way they are told in the book.

Manchester tells that on Sunday, Nov. 24, 1963, Kennedy's casket was to be sealed forever, then moved to the Capitol rotunda from the East Room of the White House. Before the removal, the Kennedys wanted to place some personal items in the casket, including farewell notes written by Mrs. Kennedy, her daughter Caroline and her son, John.

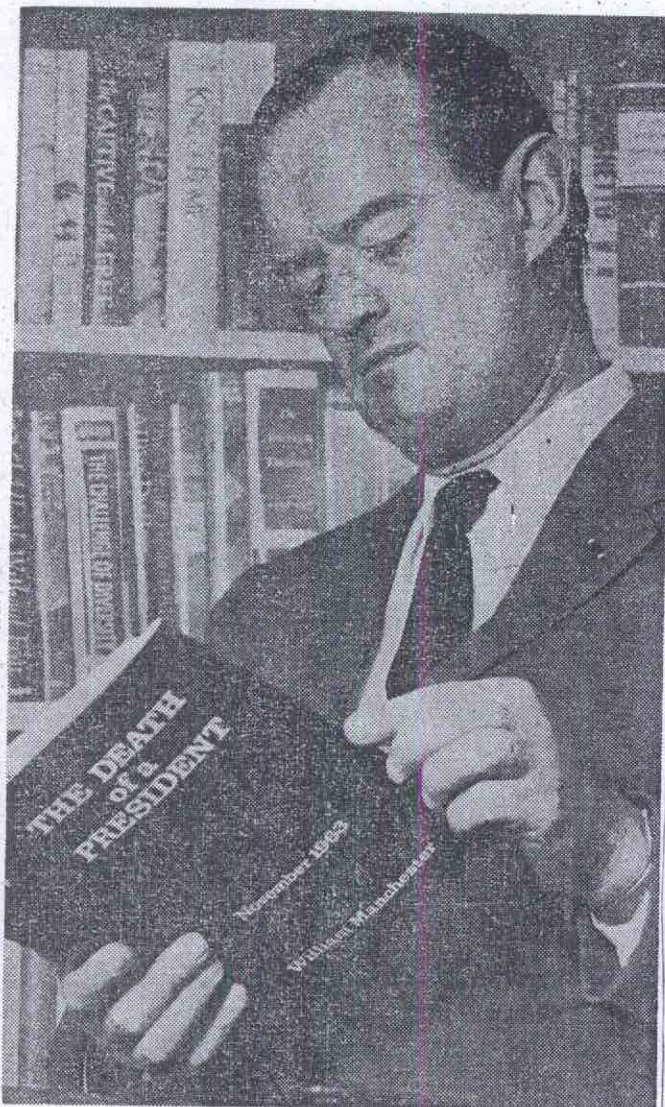
Caroline's Note

In the book, Manchester says Mrs. Kennedy came to the children's nursery with blue stationery and told Caroline she must write a letter to her father to "tell him how much you love him." Then, Manchester says:

"Holding a blue ball-point pen, Caroline wrote that they would all miss him and told him that she loved him very much . . ."

Originally, Manchester reportedly quoted the brief note in full instead of paraphrasing it.

Also omitted from the published version is some of the detail Manchester reportedly had included about the mementos Mrs. Kennedy deposited in the coffin on her own behalf and that of her sister, Lee Radziwill. This is now limited to a description of Mrs. Kennedy placing the letters in the coffin along



WILLIAM MANCHESTER

With his book.

Manchester

with a pair of cufflinks she had once bought for JFK and a scrimshaw bearing the Presidential seal.

This sort of very personal material was the kind of information which is believed to have been the basis for Mrs. Kennedy's lawsuit. She claimed Manchester had failed to accede to her wishes as to the final text of the manuscript.

Other personal details also reportedly in the original manuscript about this painful morning are also swiftly passed over in the soon-to-published version.

These details include Manchester's account of how Mrs. Kennedy had difficulty putting the cufflinks on the shirt and how, at Robert Kennedy's suggestion, she cut off a lock of JFK's hair.

In the book's published version, a few brief sentences tell how Mrs. Kennedy "put the three letters, the scrimshaw and the cufflinks in the coffin, "now Kennedy took off his PT pin and then deposited the rosary.

"Then, with a lock of her husband's hair," Manchester sums up, "she went out with Bob."

The Defense Dept. today denied statements in William Manchester's book that President Johnson had not been advised on procedures for ordering nuclear retaliation in the event of an attack following the Kennedy assassination.

Security officials in the Kennedy Administration also denied that Johnson had not been briefed. The U. S. atomic attack code was carried in a football-shaped satchel that lay in the Presidential jet which took Johnson and the body of Kennedy back to Washington from Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

Kennedy officials said that at the late President's insistence Johnson had been familiarized thoroughly on the contents of the satchel.

Manchester says in the book, "The Death of a President":

"The difficulty was that Johnson had no idea of what was in the bag. He knew that it existed, but he hadn't been briefed about the contents, and if the thunderbolt of all-out war struck that afternoon, the country's retaliatory arsenal could be spiked until he had been led through Taz Shepard's primers for the first time."

Capt. Tazewell Shepard was a military aide to President Kennedy.

Manchester also writes:

Denials Fly

"Had Russia attacked across the DEW Line, the greatest military establishment in the history of the world might easily have been musclebound during the 15 faithful minutes of warning time and perhaps even afterward, when second-strike capacity became a factor."

A spokesman for the Defense Dept. issued a statement saying:

"The statements carried by the press services attributed to William Manchester bearing on the nuclear readiness of the U. S. on Nov. 22, 1963, were untrue.

"On that date, Lyndon Johnson, as Vice President and as President, was fully aware of the procedures used to authorize the release of nuclear weapons in retaliation against attack on the U. S."

The Telephone Problem

Manchester also says there was a slowdown in commercial telephone service because of the great load of calls in the hours immediately following the assassination. He says phones in the Senate and House offices, the White House and the Signal Corps had been paralyzed temporarily.

According to Manchester's

account, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy roamed the streets in Washington, trying the phones of strangers, until he got through to then-Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy to learn if their brother was dead.

"It became obvious that in a national emergency this [telephone service] would be the first link to snap," Manchester writes.

Another Difference

Regarding the passages on the slowdown in commercial telephone service, the Defense Dept. said:

"Governmental communications, military and civil, were fully operational at all times and were far in excess of any requirement arising out of any security emergency. Those communications operate independently of commercial systems."

A spokesman for the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Co. in Washington said that due to the unusually heavy traffic after the assassination, "if you

picked up the phone you might have to wait a few seconds to get a dial tone."

The Defense Dept. also took issue with a passage in the book which says that fears of an international plot to overthrow the U. S. government prompted Defense Secretary McNamara to alert every American military base around the world the moment he heard Kennedy had been shot in Dallas.

"By every readable signal, the situation was very red," Manchester says.

On this passage, the Defense Dept. said:

"The Joint Staff did not order any change in the state of alert of the armed forces following the assassination of President Kennedy. However, the Joint Staff did send a message to the commands informing them of the assassination and cautioning that they should be especially on the alert. Routine posture remained in effect.

"Although there was no official change in state of alert, some commands did on their own initiative take special precautions. SAC [Strategic Air Command] was one which tightened up for a few hours before relaxing."

A Pentagon spokesman said that if McNamara ordered an alert, he normally would transmit such an order through the Joint Staff.

Premature Sale

Much of the contents of the book, which went on sale in Pittsburgh prematurely yesterday, has already been serialized in Look magazine.

But some heretofore undisclosed passages include Manchester's description of the football-shaped satchel containing the codes needed to launch a retaliatory nuclear attack.

In these passages, Manchester also mentions Gen. Maxwell Taylor, then chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The author writes that Taylor was confident the satchel would be somewhere near Johnson but he was unsure whether the new President knew what was in it.

The book, published by Harper & Row, had an April 6 release date for reviews, but the embargo was broken yesterday by Women's Wear Daily, after the book went on sale prematurely in Pittsburgh.