



-Star Staff

Mrs. Constance McLaughlin Green chats with fellow author Allen Dulles at the 150th anniversary party of Harper and Row at the Cosmos Club last night.

A 'Might Have Been' In JFK Book Row

Much of the hassle over William Manchester's "The Death of a President" might have been avoided if the family—instead of proxies—had read the original manuscript, according to the publisher's executive vice president.

Evan Thomas of Harper and Row, who guided the book through publication said last night:

"If I had it to do over again, I would have been a better middleman. I urged them to name proxies. The situation might have been saved if I had urged them to read it themselves instead."

Thomas was one of the hosts at Harper's 150th anniversary celebration last night at the Cosmos Club's John Wesley Powell auditorium, at which Washington authors were honored.

He said he was responsible for suggesting to "Robert Kennedy and his sister-in-law that because the book was such an emotional experience

for me to read I thought it would be better for them not to read it."

Calling himself "the only villain in the situation, if there a villain," Thomas said he now realizes it was "a mistake not to have had the communications directly between the Kennedy family and the author."

Among the authors honored at the reception were former CIA director Allen Dulles, Assistant Secretary of State for Cultural Affairs Charles Frankel, Pulitzer Prize winning author Constance McLaughlin Green and columnists Clayton Fritchey and Marquis Childs.