

Wouldn't Back Warren,

NEW YORK (AP) — William Manchester says he refused an invitation by Chief Justice Earl Warren to declare that findings of the Warren Commission on the Kennedy assassination were acceptable to the Kennedys.

Manchester said he felt this "would be improper."

Manchester, writing in the issue of Look magazine which goes on newsstands tomorrow, gives his account of the story behind the controversy surrounding his book, "The Death of a President."

"Unknown to the press," Manchester writes, "the chief justice had given me security clearance and a desk in the commission's VFW Building offices . . . There, I had immediate access to all testimony, documents, exhibits and depositions."

"RATHER cannily, I thought, the chief justice had also invited me to read a first draft of the report and declare, as a friend of the family, that its findings were acceptable to the Kennedys in every respect."

"Although I had cooperated with him in other ways, I demurred, explaining that I felt it would be improper. I was, after all, a private citizen, and my own inquiry had far to go."

"Unlike Mr. Mark Lane, I also declined an invitation to testify, giving the same reason. I refused to rush to judgment in 1964. More to the point, however, I was working a new and entirely different line."

LANE is the author of "Rush to Judgment," a book critical of the Warren Report.

Manchester also writes of the Warren Commission:

"As I then knew, and as the nation has since discovered, the prestigious names on Earl Warren's panel did little except glitter; the long hours were put in by junior staff men. They were dedicated. They were also young; I believe I had more

investigative experience than any of them."

Manchester has stated that he agrees with the main conclusion of the Warren Commission that Lee Harvey Oswald assassinated President Kennedy without accomplices.

The author also writes that painstaking professional editing of the book in April, May and June of 1966 was ignored later that year and waves of changes were being urged upon him.

HE says the first came from Pamela Turnure, a young secretary in Mrs. Kennedy's office. John Seigenthaler, editor of the Nashville Tennessean and a former associate of Robert Kenne-

dy in the Justice Department, also suggested changes, Manchester says.

"Pam was a lightweight," Manchester writes. "John Seigenthaler, a heavy."

Manchester indicates he believes that most of his troubles over the proposed changes in his

manuscript stemmed from Mrs. John F. Kennedy. He says she had come to think of him as a member of her court.

MANCHESTER also criticizes Theodore Sorensen and Pierre Salinger, White House aides to President Kennedy. He says the

two gave in to demands by the Kennedys for changes in the manuscripts of books they wrote about the late president.

Manchester says another former White House assistant, Arthur Schlesinger Jr., was given a cool reception by Mrs. Kennedy after he resisted efforts to

Manchester Says

change a book he wrote about the president.

The two years following the assassination, Manchester says, were to be the loneliest in his life. The reason, he says, was that he had become a reservoir of intimate confidences so delicate and sensitive that he

couldn't tell his own wife about them.

Manchester says he had been on a first name basis with Mrs. Kennedy, calling her Jackie, but after strained relationships began developing, her letters to him would end, "sincerely, Jacqueline Kennedy."