

# Irony in Manchester Book

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There is a bitterly ironic note in the timing of the nation's first look at a portion of William Manchester's book, "The Death of a President."

A major reason for President John F. Kennedy's November 1963 trip into Texas was to patch up a turbulent feud between two high-placed state Democrats. Now, as *Look* magazine begins to serialize Manchester's book, relations are even worse between the two, Sen. Ralph Yarborough, idol of the state's liberals, and Gov. John Connally, powerful leader of the more conservative state Democratic "establishment."

President Johnson, who had his own serious difficulties with Yarborough before the assassination, has been getting along fine with the unpredictable senator since. But Johnson's struggle to keep Yarborough and Connally out of fights has failed.

Yarborough, a scrapper with a low boiling point, rarely

misses a chance to pick at Connally, even on little things. For example, he tried to prevent Connally from having the honorary title of commissioner general of San Antonio's ambitious 1968 HemisFair, claiming the state constitution did not allow it. Connally kept the title.

Yarborough now hints he may run for governor in 1968. This undoubtedly would force Connally into a race for a fourth term to keep Yarborough from winning. A Connally-Yarborough confrontation would set off chaotic conditions in the Texas Democratic party in a presidential election year when Johnson will be seeking another White House term.

Republicans believe a Connally-Yarborough blood letting would give them their best chance to elect a Texas governor. Their candidate would likely be George Bush, a new congressman. Bush, a handsome John Lindsay type, ran a strong race against Yarborough for the Senate in

the 1964 Johnson landslide in Texas.

Various forecasts on what Congress will do about modernizing the draft have overlooked one important fact. The President can make far-reaching changes in the operation of Selective Service with executive orders and without Congress doing anything.

And the President quite likely will. He is anxious for the draft to be made more fair, and every indication is that Congress, with its slow ways, won't finish work on an up-dated Selective Service Act until sometime in the 1968 session.

A key segment of the draft law expires June 30, but Congress can dispose of that problem with a simple act extending it for another year as is.

Burke Marshall's commission, set up by Johnson to find better ways of conducting the draft, found the subject too complicated to resolve before Dec. 31 deadline. Recommendations probably won't be ready until sometime in February.

The President, empowered with much discretion in setting Selective Service rules and regulations, can, and probably will, bring some of these recommendations into being administratively right away. This would give Congress a chance to see how some of the proposals work while the legislators contemplate changes in the draft law.

**BRIEFLY:** Walt Rostow, Johnson's top aide for national security affairs, is, in off hours, a Rodgers in search of a Hammerstein. For relaxation, Rostow composes popular tunes and is looking for a lyricist to make them singable. . . .

Vermont's Democratic Gov. Philip Hoff has a unique political problem—more appointive jobs than there are qualified Democrats to fill them. The situation is so serious he is even interviewing people in other New England states.