

Kennedy Book Denounced by Connally

By Frank Denton

Special to The Washington Post

AUSTIN, Tex., Jan. 10—Gov. John B. Connally, after reading the first installment of the serialized version, today denounced the William Manchester book on the Kennedy assassination as a "transparent attempt to dictate history."

Connally, who was wounded when President Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963, said he plans to assemble his own account of Mr. Kennedy's trip to Texas "in the interest of unmanaged history."

Reading a prepared statement at a news conference, he said:

"The first published installment from the book, 'The Death of a President,' represented as an 'authorized and authentic history,' turns out to be an astonishing propaganda instrument cleverly woven to reflect favorably on those who gave it birth, while rudely discrediting others involved. It is

filled with editorial comment based on unfounded rumor, distortion and inconsistency.

"This transparent attempt to dictate history through a captive voice is shocking.

"The privately commissioned author has contrived a presentation which undoubtedly will achieve widespread readership. It cannot, however, qualify as factual history. It actually is a recitation of recollections and observations collected and reflected through the prisms of prejudice."

Connally is depicted in Manchester's book as a man of poor origins who rose to power by serving the Texas plutocracy and who then slavishly adopted its habits.

The Governor listed only one particular in his statement. He disputed Manchester's report that Mr. Kennedy was brought to Texas to settle a parochial political dispute. According to Connally, the disputants were then Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson and Sen. Ralph Yarborough (D-Tex.), both of whom were available in Washington.

Manchester Book Furor Blamed on Kennedys

SAN JUAN, P.R., Jan. 10 (UPI)—Gov. John J. McKeithen of Louisiana said today the controversy over William Manchester's "The Death of a President" was instigated by the Kennedy family in an attempt to "destroy" President Johnson.

McKeithen, who is in Puerto Rico attending the christening of a New Orleans-built tugboat, told the San Juan Star in an interview "(Robert) Kennedy is trying to destroy Johnson, and that's what Manchester's book is about."

Bomb Sent to Tower After Assassination

Associated Press

Sen. John G. Tower (R-Tex.) disclosed yesterday that a fake bomb had been sent to his office by mail in the aftermath of President Kennedy's assassination by someone evidently believing political conservatives were responsible for Mr. Kennedy's death.

Tower also recalled that in 1963, after Mr. Kennedy was slain in Dallas, he received so many threatening telephone calls and letters that he was forced to move his family away from their home in Bethesda for a few days.

Tower attacked the Manchester book's contention that the atmosphere in Dallas contributed to the assassination as "false, unsupportable and intellectually dishonest."