

Kennedy Idea Of an Attack Is Related

Magazine Serial Tells of Acting-Out In Texas Hotel

New York, Jan. 23—(UPI)—A grim-faced President Kennedy acted out his possible assassination for his wife and an aide in their hotel room only two hours before the real one occurred, according to a Look magazine instalment of the book, "Death of a President."

"We're heading into nut country today," he was said to have warned Jacqueline Kennedy after they were shown a black bordered "welcome" advertisement in a Dallas newspaper accusing Mr. Kennedy of taking part in a Communist conspiracy.

This ironic foretaste of tragedy was described in the second Look magazine instalment of William Manchester's book. At the time, Mr. Kennedy and his wife were in their hotel room in Fort Worth. They were preparing to fly to Dallas, where the President was assassinated Nov. 22, 1963.

Right Wing Ad

Presidential aide Kenneth O'Donnell showed Mr. Kennedy the advertisement placed in the Dallas News by right-wing detractors.

Under the heading, "Welcome, Mr. Kennedy to Dallas," the ad accused the President of responsibility for the imprisonment, starvation and persecution of "thousands of Cubans," said he was selling food to Communist soldiers, killing Americans in Vietnam and hinted he had reached a secret agreement with the Communist Party in the United States.

"He read each word," Manchester wrote. "His face was grim, and he handed it to Jackie. Her vivacity disappeared; she felt sick. The President shook his head. Slowly, he said to her, 'Oh, you know we're go-

ing into nut country today.'"

Possibility Raised

Then, pacing about the room, Mr. Kennedy began to think about the possibility of an assassin's attack. He observed to his wife that the night before, when they arrived at the hotel, "would have been a hell of a night to assassinate a President."

"I mean it," he said. "There was the rain, and the night, and we were all getting jostled. Suppose a man had a pistol in a briefcase." He gestured vividly, pointing his rigid index finger at the wall and jerking his thumb twice to show the action of the hammer. "Then he could have dropped the gun and the briefcase—in pantomime, he dropped them and whirled in a tense crouch—and melted away in the crowd."

But Manchester said this was simply Mr. Kennedy's way of shaking off the effects of the ad. He said the President spoke casually and Mrs. Kennedy took his remarks lightly.

Johnson Called Fearful

The article also pictures Lyndon B. Johnson after the shooting as a slumped figure, dazed and fearful of a plot, while his wife, Lady Bird, wrote in a notebook she carried to record her thoughts.

Manchester is critical of the presidential Secret Service bodyguard on two counts: Their immobility in the crucial seconds after the first, nonfatal, bullet struck Mr. Kennedy; and the confusion created by "the allegiance of individual agents to a man, not an office."

And he describes "an almost total collapse of discipline" by the staff at Parkland Hospital as doctors worked over the dying President.