

J. F. K.'s Dallas Trip-

By RELMAN MORIN
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NEW YORK (AP) — Five prominent Democrats strongly urged President John F. Kennedy to omit Dallas from the itinerary of his fateful tour of Texas in November 1963, because they feared the highly charged atmosphere of antagonism to him in the city.

"Dallas is a very dangerous place," Sen. J. William Fulbright of Arkansas was quoted as telling the president. "I wouldn't go there. Don't you go."

Four other men expressed grave anxieties about Kennedy's intention to visit Dallas, William Manchester reports in his controversial book, "The Death of a President."

Manchester writes that Kennedy himself regarded the entire Texas tour, undertaken for political purposes, as "vexatious and unappetizing ... an imposition."

Look magazine issued today the first installment of a four-part, 60,000-word serialization of Manchester's book. Mrs. John F. Kennedy withdrew her objections when revisions were made but did not approve or endorse the articles. A spokesman for Look quoted Gardner Cowles, editorial chairman, as saying the changes entailed only 1,600 words and "in no way affected the historical accuracy or completeness of the book."

Regarding the relations between Kennedy and Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson prior to, and during, the Texas trip, Manchester wrote:

"Politically, he — Johnson — had become a cipher because he lacked a power base ... Mrs. Johnson had never seen the inside of the famous presidential plane, Air Force One. If Johnson wanted to use a plane, he had to apply to the president's

-Friends Urged

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Air Force aide, Brig. Gen. Godfrey McHugh, and sometimes — mortifying to a man of his extreme sensitivity — the request was denied. Moreover, LBJ had now become aware of groundless but persistent rumors that he might be dropped from (the 1964) tickets."

And in San Antonio:

Mrs. Kennedy heard "raised voices" in a hotel room to which Kennedy had summoned Johnson. "He — Johnson — did not define the nature of the discussion," Manchester wrote. "Precisely what was said is unknown ... Johnson controlled his celebrated temper in his chief's presence, but in the words of one man on duty outside, 'He left that suite like a pistol.' Another said, 'He looked furious.'"

Mrs. Kennedy, the book says, asked, "What was that all about? He sounded mad."

Her husband replied, "That's just Lyndon ... but he's in trouble."

The first installment of Manchester's book shows that most of his information came from President Kennedy's admirers. Therefore it is subject to their interpretation of events which took place under great emotional stress. Some sources said that, because it deals in considerable detail with some of the emotional events, quoting various individuals, it cannot be

taken as a definitive history of the assassination.

Manchester reports that Texas Democratic Chairman Byron Skelton was among those who counselled against the decision to bring the president to Dallas. Skelton wrote the President's brother, Atty. Gen. Robert F. Kennedy, that he would "feel better if the president's itinerary did not include Dallas."

Skelton felt so strongly about it that he flew to Washington and talked with Democratic National Chairman John Bailey and Jerry Bruno of the Democratic National Committee, the book says, adding that Skelton's efforts came to "an enormous zero."

The book quotes House Whip Hale Boggs of Louisiana as saying, "Mr. President, you are going into a hornet's nest."

Kennedy replied, "Well, that always creates interesting crowds." He said the thought that a president of the United States could not go into any American city was totally unacceptable to him.

Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey of Minnesota and Ambassador Adlai E. Stevenson also harbored misgivings about the Dallas stop for the president.

"In Dallas itself there was genuine alarm," Manchester writes. "Both newspapers ran editorials calling for restraint. Police Chief Jesse Curry publicly put Dallas on notice that his department would take 'immediate action to block any improper conduct.' He drew on every available reserve."

The book discloses that Kennedy's motorcade might never have passed the Texas Book Depository Building — where Lee Harvey Oswald was lurking — but for what the author calls a "political" decision.

Those arranging the president's program in Dallas once considered the Woman's Building as the site of the luncheon to be given for him. Instead, the Trade Mart was chosen and Kennedy's automobile passed beneath the windows of the book building.

"The decision was a political decision made by politicians," Manchester wrote.

The Warren Commission found that Oswald, stationed in a sixth-floor window of the book building, fired the shots that killed Kennedy and wounded Texas Gov. John B. Connally. Its report says Oswald acted alone.

Manchester evidently came to the same conclusion, for he attempts to probe for Oswald's motive. He attributes it to the fact that Oswald was the "diametric opposite" of Kennedy, contrasting their respective records in the armed forces and writing that Kennedy was "all-powerful" while Oswald was "impotent."

"Kennedy was cheered; Oswald ignored," the book says. "Kennedy was beloved; Oswald despised. Kennedy was a hero. Oswald was a victim."

Why did Kennedy, against his wishes, go to Texas at all?

Manchester goes into considerable detail about the feuding between Texas liberals, whose "hero" was Sen. Ralph Yarborough and Gov. Connally a conservative. The senator, Manchester writes, considered Johnson a "co-conspirator" of Connally's

The book notes that the Ken-

nedy-Johnson ticket had carried Texas "by an eyelash" in the 1960 presidential election. And Manchester concluded that if the Yarborough-Connally feud could not soon be patched up, "the national ticket wouldn't stand a chance there next fall." Hence, Kennedy's decision to go to Texas.

Describing the president's attitude, Manchester wrote: "The prospect was unappetizing and vexing to the chief executive. It appear to him that Johnson ought to be able to resolve this petty dispute himself; the trip seemed to be an imposition."

During the planning stages for it, Mrs. Kennedy was in Greece recuperating from the loss of her third child. She wrote her husband 10-page letters, sprinkled with dashes, telling him how much she missed him and how she wished he could be with her, away from the tensions of Washington.

"There's just one thing I couldn't stand," she said, "—if I ever lost you..."

But when the president's wife returned to Washington, on Oct. 17, her spirits were high. Manchester says she told her husband, "We'll campaign. I'll campaign with you anywhere you want."

The president was delighted. For the first time in their marriage, Manchester reported, he talked about her wardrobe. He wanted to know, especially, what she would wear at the scheduled luncheon in Dallas.

He told her: "There are going to be all these rich Republican women at that lunch, wearing mink coats and diamond bracelets. Be simple—show these Texans what good taste really is."

The book says Mrs. Kennedy thereupon came in and out of his room, showing him dresses she liked.

A last-minute contretemps with respect to her wardrobe developed.

Gen. McHugh, his Air Force aide, had advised the president that the weather in Texas would be cool during his three days there, beginning Nov. 20. As the

presidential party was about to leave for the airport, it was learned that the weather had turned hot.

"Kennedy cried in dismay," Manchester writes, "He lunged for his telephone and dialed his wife's maid's extension. 'Pack some cool dresses,' he said urgently."

But his wife's dresses already were in a helicopter which had left for the airfield. Kennedy "chewed out" McHugh, the book says.

The departure also caused Kennedy to miss his French lesson, the book says. The tutor for his daughter, Caroline, had been giving him language lessons for two months. This, Manchester says, was a "closely guarded secret."

Kennedy wanted to learn French so that he could conduct

future negotiations with French President Charles de Gaulle in de Gaulle's own language. He asked the tutor, Mme. Jacqueline Hirsch, how long she thought it would take him to become proficient. A year, she replied.

"I bet I do it in six months," Kennedy replied.

Manchester writes that Kennedy expected to be re-elected in a "historic landslide" in 1964. His expectations were accentuated by his feeling that the "GOP would yield to its death wish and nominate Barry Goldwater."

He already was pondering the makeup of his second cabinet.

Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara would become secretary of state and McNamara "almost certainly" would head the new Cabinet. Robert F.

Kennedy wished to resign as attorney general and be appointed assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs. Secretary of State Dean Rusk, Manchester writes, was "aware that the President intended to be his own foreign minister" and "had leaned on him increasingly in other ways."

Manchester asserts that the governor was thinking ahead to the 1964 campaigning and writes, "The governor wanted to run ahead of the ticket. He wanted Yarborough to lose, and with that in mind, he planned to make political capital out of the forthcoming presidential tour."

The book says that one of Connally's planned stratagems was to have two-tiered, headtables in Dallas and Austin. With the president and vice president, Connally planned to sit at

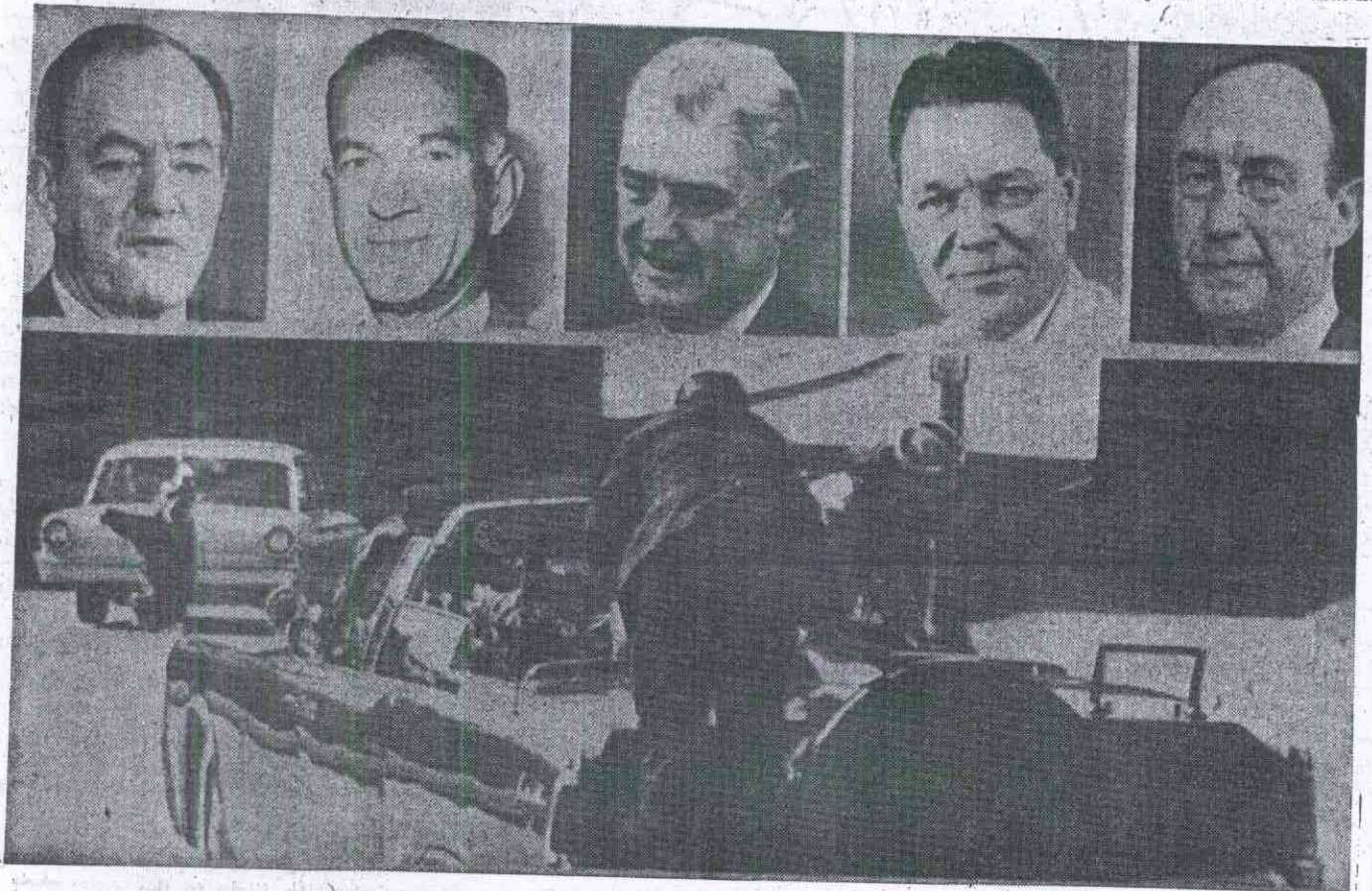
the top table. Yarborough and other officials would be relegated to the lower one.

In the motorcades, agents notified Yarborough that he was supposed to ride with Johnson. Instead, the senator twice chose to ride with friends in other cars. Manchester says the 40 correspondents covering the tour "saw him avoiding the vice president" and "decided to call it a snub."

The book reports that Mrs. Kennedy "blurted out" that she disliked Connally. The president asked why and she replied:

"I can't stand him all day. He's just one of those men — oh, I don't know. I just can't bear his sitting there saying all these great things about himself. And he seems to be needling you all day."

Kennedy reminded her that he



URGED KENNEDY NOT TO GO—William Manchester reports in his book, "The Death of a President", being serialized in Look Magazine, that five prominent Democrats urged President Kennedy not to go to Dallas in November, 1963. From left: senators Hubert Humphrey of Minnesota and J. William Fulbright of

Arkansas; Texas Democratic chairman Byron Skelton; Rep. Hale Boggs of Louisiana and U.N. ambassador Adlai Stevenson. Below, Presidential car immediately after fatal shots were fired.

AP Wirephoto

had come to Texas to try to heal political wounds and said, "I'm trying to start by getting two people in the same car." So he asked her to put aside her hostility to the governor. Manchester reports that she did so.

Big and friendly crowds greeted the presidential party wherever it appeared and the tour approached its tragic cli-

max in an aura of good feeling.

The first installment of the Manchester book closes with biographical details in the life of Lee Harvey Oswald, his temporary estrangement from his Russian wife, Marina, and the fateful hour when he carried a long, cylindrical, brown paper package to Dallas. He said it contained curtain rods.