

Book Feud Flares Again

Jackie a Marie Antoinette, Embittered Manchester Says

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From Our Wire Services

NEW YORK, Jan. 23.—Bitter recriminations between author William Manchester and the Kennedy family and their supporters ended the truce over "The Death of a President" Monday and saw Mrs. John F. Kennedy likened to Mao Tse-tung and Marie Antoinette.

At the same time a Kennedy family spokesman retorted that the book was so unfair to a number of persons — including President Johnson — that by agreement between the Kennedys and the publishers almost a third of the original manuscript was altered.

'MAN OF VIOLENCE'

As an example, the spokesman said, the entire original first chapter of the book was thrown out because it pictured Mr. Johnson as "a man of violence."

Manchester's views on the controversy came in a series of interviews with the New York Times at his home in Middletown, and Conn., and with Newsweek Magazine and the New York Post, prior to his leaving on vacation. The Times and Post interviews were published in Monday's editions. The Newsweek interview will appear in current issue.

'INCREDIBLE CHARM'

Manchester admitted that he was overwhelmed by the former First Lady's "incredible" charm when he met with her in 1964 to obtain material for the book. But he found her attitude toward the finished manuscript unfathomable.

"Mao Tse-tung and Jackie are the two most inscrutable people I know," he said in the Times

Of Special Interest Today

As Congress goes back to work, there is a growing demand for a re-examination of the great complex of welfare measures and for reform to reduce the Federal role in welfare programs. Walter Lippmann analyzes the outlook in his column on the Feature Page,

Page 13

interview, referring to the chairman of the Communist Party in China. Switching to France of the 18th century he said: "It was like she was Marie Antoinette, completely isolated from the world around her by her courtier advisers."

SURE OF POPULARITY

He said the former First Lady took the attitude that anyone who opposed her would be unpopular with the public. She brought suit last Dec. 16 to halt publication of the book by Harper & Row and serialization by

Continued on Page 40, Column 1

Continued from First Page

Newsweek, the New York Times, the New York World Journal Tribune and the New York Post.

He said the former First Lady took the attitude that anyone who opposed her would be unpopular with the public. She brought suit last Dec. 16 to halt publication of the book by Harper & Row and serialization by Look magazine with this in mind, he said.

"Unless I run off with Eddie Fisher, the people will think that anyone who is in a fight with me is a rat," he quoted her as saying.

In the controversy over the

first chapter the Kennedy source said:

"The whole first chapter was a deer hunting scene in Texas. It showed Johnson as a man of violence who loved to kill deer and would force others to do the same.

"It seemed to set symbolic overtones which were unjust and inaccurate. It seemed an attempt to make this (the chapter) the symbolic framework for the whole book, which was unjust and disastrous.

"It had nothing to do with the assassination since it occurred three years before the assassination, right after the election of President Kennedy. It pictured President Kennedy as a

man reluctant to do this (keel deer), a much more gentle figure."

President Kennedy and Johnson went hunting on the LBJ ranch on Nov. 17, 1960, the period after the election and prior to the inauguration. It was Kennedy's first deer hunt and he shot two bucks. The two men had met at the LBJ ranch for a post election discussion of various problems facing their administration.

Manchester's latest version of the "battle of the book" was challenged by former presidential aide Richard Goodwin, who represented Mrs. Kennedy in reading and making revisions of the manuscript. In San Fran-

cisco, Goodwin said Manchester's account "bears no relationship" to what really happened.

"The book is, in part, tasteless and gratuitously insulting to President Johnson and, for that matter, to the memory of the late President," Goodwin said. "In an effort to make the book both accurate and fair . . . the publishers and representatives of the Kennedy family recommended many changes. As a result almost one-third of the book was modified."

According to Manchester only 3600 words were cut—about one percent of the text. He said the Kennedys appeared to go along with the whole project until Look magazine bought serialization

rights for \$665,000. He said Mrs. Kennedy was "concerned over the sum of money and what she felt was commercialization."

Sen. Robert F. Kennedy greeted the news of the Look deal with "Gee, that's great—that's a record isn't it?" But soon his attitude changed, too, and he "was irrational and concerned with the money now," Manchester said. The author said he expects to net \$500,000, after taxes, on the book.

Sen. Kennedy, in a terse statement, said "it all finally comes down to the fact that Mr. Manchester gave his word and then broke it. No statement or interview or description of events,

however dramatic, can alter that plain fact."

Manchester charged that although Mrs. Kennedy "didn't hire me" and did not sign the memorandum agreement he had with Senator Kennedy, he got the distinct feeling that he was considered a "paid historian." He accused Goodwin of "emasculating" the proofs of the Look serialization of material of Senator Kennedy and President Johnson—"largely for political reasons."

"I learned what it was to live in a monarchy," the author said. "I found myself pitted against a dozen people who had been good friends. I learned something about the political

animal—people who are betting their futures on another Kennedy administration and who are willing to do anything."

Manchester said one of these persons reminded him that he was "destroying any chance you might have to become a special assistant to the (future) president" by opposing the Kennedys' demands for radical cuts in the book. He observed that the Kennedys are probably "a part of my past, not my future."

LOOKING for a job? There are far more job opportunities listed on The Inquirer's Classified Pages than in any other Philadelphia newspaper.

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NEW YORK, Jan. 23 (UPI). — President Kennedy, disturbed by a black-bordered "welcome" advertisement in a Dallas newspaper, acted out his own assassination two hours before it happened, telling Mrs. Kennedy, "We're heading into nut country today."

The ironic scene is depicted in the second Look Magazine installment of William Manchester's book, "The Death of a President," published Monday. The article pictures President Johnson as dazed by the slaying and fearful of a plot against his own life, while Mrs. Johnson wrote her impressions in a notebook reserved for "never-to-be-forgotten moments."

Manchester questions the ability of Mr. Kennedy's Secret Service bodyguard to cope with the situation, noting that "the reflexes of the agents nearest the President were crucial in those seconds after the first shot was fired." He accused them of being "immobilized" while Lee Harvey Oswald took deliberate aim for his final shot.

SECRET SERVICE UNSURE

In addition, the Secret Service was unsure of its allegiance—to the Kennedys or Mr. Johnson—after the assassination, and instead of being "a symbol of continuity, was riven by disunion," Manchester wrote. The agents followed personal loyalties, he said, and "the inevitable consequence was anarchy."

The fear that mounted to bloody terror in Dallas' Dealey Plaza and climaxed in chaos and suspicion at Parkland Hospital on Nov. 22, 1963, first gripped the Kennedys in a hotel room in Fort Worth as they waited for the flight to Dallas. Acting Press Secretary Mac Kilduff showed the President the advertisement in the Dallas paper.

The ad in the Dallas News, under the heading, "Welcome, Mr. Kennedy to Dallas," accused the President of responsibility for the imprisonment, starvation and persecution of "thousands of Cubans," and said he was selling food to Communist soldiers who were killing Americans in Vietnam. The ad hinted that President Kennedy

Continued on Page 40, Column 1

20

JFK Acted Out Own Slaying, Look Reports

Continued from First Page

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

FACE WAS GRIM

"He read each word," Manchester reports. "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 going into nut country today.'"

Then in what the author described as an "007 caper," Mr. Kennedy observed 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 a crowd."

FEW DETAILS SPARED

Manchester said it was Mr. Kennedy's way of shaking off the effects of the ad. He described the President as speaking casually and Mrs. Kennedy taking it lightly.

Manchester relates that Bernard Weissman, the salesman who signed the ad, holed up in a bar for four hours after hearing of the assassination because he feared he would be blamed.

He quoted him as saying of the assassin: "I hope he is not a member of the Walker (right-wing Gen. Edwin Walker) group."

The article provided a minute-by-minute account of the tragedy, sparing few of the details. It is critical of police for not spotting Oswald in the book depository building window, as four witnesses reported doing, of the haphazard placement of the White House physician in a car near the rear of the motorcade, and an "almost total collapse" in discipline on the part of the hospital staff.

5 TERRIBLE SECONDS

After the first shot, which wounded Mr. Kennedy but not fatally, the President's bodyguards "were in a position to take evasive action . . . but for five terrible seconds, they were immobilized," Manchester said.

The author charged that White House bodyguards are not subjected to reflex tests, such as are given to airlines pilots, and are assigned to their jobs because of seniority, although agents admit that at 40 a man on this detail is "old." The two in the presidential car were Roy Kellerman, 35, and the driver, an agent named Greer, 48.

It was the second bullet that destroyed the President's brain. The damage to the skull and the "red sheet" of blood convinced the First Lady that her husband was dead. She was amazed to find out later at the hospital that he was still clinically alive and decided to enter the tiny room where 14 doctors surrounded the President, though only three were necessary, according to Manchester.

STRUGGLED WITH NURSE

"I want to be in there when he dies," she explained to White House physician Dr. George Burkley as she struggled with a nurse who adamantly refused her admittance. He told the nurse it was Mrs. Kennedy's "prerogative" and led her in. A few minutes later it was all over and surgeon Kemp Clark told the widow:

"Your husband has sustained a fatal wound. The lips moved silently: 'I know.'"

"Lyndon and I didn't speak," Manchester quoted Mrs. Johnson as saying. "We just looked at each other, exchanging messages with our eyes. We know what it might be."

TIME FOR PRAYER

Mr. Johnson was far readier to take orders than to issue them, Manchester wrote. He told Rep. Homer Thornberry in a feeble whisper, "This is a

time for prayer if there ever was one, Homer.' . . . Mrs. Johnson, who always carried notebooks to record what she called her never-to-be forgotten moments, produced one from her purse and was rapidly writing down her impressions."

Mr. Johnson finally suggested flying to Carswell Strategic Air Command Base near Fort Worth for safety, but it was decided this was too far. Ken O'Donnell of the Kennedy staff confirmed Mr. Kennedy's death to Mr. Johnson and Manchester quotes him as saying the new President "raised the possibility of a conspiracy."

The Johnson party left soon after for Dallas' Love Field where the presidential and vice presidential jets were waiting. Kennedy aide Kilduff was the first to address Mr. Johnson as "Mr. President."

"He looked at me like I was Donald Duck," Manchester quotes Kilduff as saying.