

Compare all with public
statements.

also a scene picture
Peters used
credibility of witnesses
also as topic. witness
Murray, nothing but names, etc

Something gone for sure!

Manchester Concedes That Kennedy Aides Could

By DOUGLAS ROBINSON

William Manchester conceded yesterday that eyewitnesses to the swearing-in of Lyndon B. Johnson as President might have been mistaken in reporting that no male aides of President Kennedy were present at the tense ceremony in a crowded airplane compartment in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

Mr. Manchester, the author of the controversial book, "The Death of a President," said, however, that a recently published photograph showing Kenneth O'Donnell, a Kennedy aide, standing at Mrs. Kennedy's shoulder during the oath taking could also have been misleading.

"The distance between this

scene and a corridor where Ken was pacing was approximately three steps," Mr. Manchester said, "and there were five witnesses who saw him in that corridor."

In the third installment of the serialization of his book that is appearing in Look magazine, the author wrote that Mr. O'Donnell walked the corridor "like a caged tiger, his hands clapped over his ears as though to block the oath."

An Hour's Interview

Mr. Manchester discussed his version of the swearing-in ceremony yesterday during an hour-long television interview in Washington on the National Broadcasting Company program "Meet the Press." He also made the following points:

¶It was "overzealous" aides to Senator Robert F. Kennedy who tried to excise passages on political matters rather than the Senator himself, whose views Mr. Manchester described as "generous and laudable."

¶Mrs. Kennedy's objections to some of the material in the book "all were understandable" and comprised less than 1 per cent of the manuscript.

¶Mr. Manchester had turned down a request by the Kennedy family to rewrite his account of President Johnson's first Cabinet meeting because he felt that to do so "would have been a distortion of history, a threat to the integrity of my manuscript."

¶He denied charges that he had been hostile to President

Johnson and said, "I think when the book is read, people will realize that I was and still am very sympathetic to President Johnson, who I believe behaved admirably at a time when the rest of us were just barely able to function."

¶He rejected any suggestion that he had violated an agreement with the Kennedy family that called for their approval of the manuscript and maintained that Senator Kennedy, acting on behalf of Mrs. Kennedy, had "liquidated" a memorandum of understanding on publication.

¶In discussing the photograph showing Mr. O'Donnell at Mrs. Kennedy's side, Mr. Manchester said that other pictures did not show the Kennedy aide to be

is necessary in summary.

13, 1701.

Newsweek also

Have Been at Swearing In

in the compartment. He indicated that the closeness of the corridor to the site of the ceremony might have resulted in Mr. O'Donnell's being temporarily on the scene.

Concedes Possible Error

Under questioning, however, he agreed that it was possible that eyewitnesses could be mistaken and that it would be "presumptuous for a contemporary historian . . . to claim that he bats a thousand."

Mr. O'Donnell has said that he stood next to Mrs. Kennedy throughout the ceremony. The picture showing him standing at her side was taken by Cecil Stoughton, the official White House photographer during the Kennedy Administration.

One of the panel of news-

men, Lawrence E. Spivak, said he had been told that the pictures showed five male Kennedy aides at the oath taking and asked, if that were true, whether the author would correct his book.

"It's too late to correct the first edition," Mr. Manchester said, adding that although he was highly skeptical about the report he would correct later editions if the story proved to be true.

In blaming Senator Kennedy's aides for urging cuts in political material, Mr. Manchester appeared to be retreating from earlier statements that the Senator himself was responsible.

The author, for example, was quoted in an interview printed last month in The New York

Times as saying that Senator Kennedy wanted to "shred and emasculate" the book for political reasons.

Yesterday, when he was asked to discuss 111 passages that the interviewer said Senator Kennedy wanted deleted, Mr. Manchester broke in to say: "It was not the Senator. It was not the Senator."

When the interviewer, Charles Roberts of Newsweek, rephrased the question to ask if the author believed that the Senator was seeking to get political advantage out of the book, Mr. Manchester replied:

"I never felt that Senator Robert F. Kennedy had that attitude at all. The difficulty arose on lower levels when there were employes who knew that they would be answerable to the Kennedys and who were understandably overzealous in their suggestions."

Manchester Replies to Charges Of Inaccuracy on Swearing-In

By Andrew J. Glass

Washington Post Staff Writer

William Manchester defended himself yesterday against charges that he had inaccurately portrayed the scene in which Lyndon B. Johnson was sworn in as President after the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

The author of "The Death of a President" also said he did not intend to be critical of Mr. Johnson's actions on Nov. 22, 1963, in writing his controversial book.

"We forget how we all were that day," he said. "I think the President behaved well. I think, if anything, he ought to have taken over more rapidly than he did."

Manchester was interviewed in an hour-long session on "Meet the Press" (NBC, WRC).

A recently released photograph reveals Kenneth O'Donnell, Mr. Kennedy's former appointments secretary, standing beside Mrs. Kennedy at the oath-taking ceremony aboard Air Force One. Manchester had written that wide-angle photographs failed to reveal the presence of a single male Kennedy aide at the time.

In the current issue of Look, which is serializing the Manchester book prior to its April publication, the author asserted that O'Donnell was "pacing the corridor outside [the conference room] like a caged tiger, his hands clapped over his ears as though to block out the oath."

"Perhaps this is in error," Manchester conceded in the interview. "... Ken O'Donnell did tell me that he was present at the ceremonies. The photographs that I saw did not show him there and five people told me that they saw him in the corridor a few steps away."

Lawrence F. O'Brien, a former Kennedy aide now serving as Postmaster General, also was present at the ceremony. He stood behind the official White House photographer, Capt. Cecil Stoughton.

Manchester also defended the use of the word "tong" in describing Mr. Johnson's session with his companions on the eve of the assassination in Dallas. "... If you consult Webster's Third International, it is not a criminal gang," he said. "It is a group, a club."

Webster's Third International Dictionary defines "tong," a word derived from the Cantonese "t'ong," meaning hall or meeting place, as follows:

"A secret society or fraternal organization, especially among the Chinese in the U.S. formerly notorious for gang warfare and popularly associated with racketeering, gambling and traffic in narcotics."

Manchester also characterized himself as "a privileged observer" at the Warren Commission's hearings on the Kennedy assassination. He said that at the invitation of Chief

Justice Earl Warren, he read the testimony and examined the exhibits "as they came in."

But Manchester said he declined the Chief Justice's bid to read the report on behalf of the Kennedy family and to state that it was "acceptable" to them.

USIA May Put Book In Libraries Abroad

United Press International

The U.S. information agency will consider putting in its libraries abroad copies of William Manchester's controversial book on the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, it was reported yesterday.

USIA Director Leonard H. Marks said the decision would be made after reviewers receive copies of "The Death of a President," which some claim is critical of President Johnson.

In a copyrighted interview in U.S. News & World Report, Marks said the Voice of America and USIA publications already have carried summaries of the book's main points and news stories of the controversy between Manchester and the Kennedy family.