Manchester Says Jackie, RFK Bickering Raised Book Fuss

WASHINGTON (P) - William thetic to President Johnson who, ence with Thomas did not indi-considerations of Kennedy's pol Manchester says differences of I think, behaved admirably," he cate that the editor held such a itical future played no part ir opinion between Mrs. John F. said. ". . . If anything he ought point of view, "so I am at a loss the suggested revisions. But he Kennedy and Sen. Robert F. to have taken over more rapidly to explain it." Kennedy may account in part than he did." for the dispute over his book, • An apparent contradiction sions in his manuscript: "The Death of a President."

ly blazing like a bonfire at tured Kenneth O'Donnell, ap-changes which were "purely They were not made by the Bob," the writer said, referring pointments secretary to Kenneto an incident before the contro-dy, as pacing the corridor with versy erupted into public.

admirable sense of family loyal-plane, Air Force One. ty. When he learned that Mrs. O'Donnell testified before the tried to find another solution."

ter he is considering doing a oath. book about this problems in writ- Questioned as to this, Manchreports of "discontent" among conclude that it did happen." the Kennedys about his manuscript.

A spokesman for Sen. Ken- Evan Thomas, editor-in-chief nedy said "No comment" when of Harper & Row, publishers of ferred to them when he said his pressed for Kennedy's reaction Manchester's book, wrote the difficulties "arose on lower levto Manchester's statements.

The panel discussion also covered these points:

of fact:

"... I think she was apparent- In his book, Manchester pichis hands covering his ears dur-Manchester added yesterday ing the swearing-in ceremony et 11 and ne described the delicities added yesterday ing the swearing-in ceremony ed material as "very personal." ed." hat Kennedy "has a strong and aboard the presidential air-

Kennedy was distressed, then he Warren Commission, however, that he was present at the rite. The author discussed his book Last Friday, the Boston Globe on the NBC radio and television published a photograph showing threat to the integrity of my proved by Jacqueline Kennedy O'Donnell standing beside Mrs. AFTERWARD he told a repor- Kennedy as Johnson took the

ing the story of the assassina- ester replied, "... My account tion of President John F. Kenne- of what took place was based on manuscript, Kennedy asked two President Dwight D. Eisenhowdy. But he said he has been interviews with 33 people and of his former government aides incapable of writing anything when a clear majority said that to read it. They were John since July when he first heard something happened then I must Seigenthaler, editor of the

letter and said the manuscript els when there were employes that when the book appears," he "is in part gratuitously and tas- who knew that they would be said, "it will stand on its own telessy insulting to Johnson."

about the letter, said he never zealous in their suggestions." Manchester said his book is has seen it "and I will not not critical of the President. "I believe it until I have seen the dy's "political future:" was and still am very sympa-letter." He said his correspond- Originally, Manchester said,

• The demand for 188 revi-

The writer said a representative of Sen. Kennedy wanted 111 er 77 and he described the delet- representatives. These I resist-

"In one case," Manchester said, "I was asked to rewrite view, Kennedy "liquidated" my account of President John-their memorandum of underson's first cabinet meeting. To standing, one passage of which me this would have been a read, "the final text shall not be distortion of history. It was a published unless and until apmanuscript, and I refused."

· The role of two representa-

When Manchester finished his Nashville Tennesseean, and Ed- A critical letter of last May win Guthman of the Los Angeles Times.

Manchester apparently reanswerable to the Kenndys and and the controversy will recede References to President Manchester, when questioned who were understandably over- into the past."

· Revisions and Sen. Kenne-

"Afterward there came two waves of changes-the suggestion that 111 passages be deleted, these were clearly political. political." A representative of senator, who has not read the Mrs. Kennedy proposed the oth- manuscript, but by one of his

> Manchester said that in his and Robert Kennedy." The senator has asserted that the author violated this agreement.

MANCHESTER said former er made a comment to him in which he said "he wished someone had done something of this] sort after the assassination of President Lincoln."

The author said that the editing of the book did not damage its integrity. "I am confident