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Manchester Running High Fever

JFK BOOK IS CRITICAL

AUTHOR LY ILL

(Page 2)

Author Rushed to Hospital

Manchester Very Ill

MIDDLETOWN, Conn. Dec. 26 (UPI) — William Manchester, author of "The Death of a President," was rushed by ambulance to Middlesex Memorial Hospital in critical condition early today.

One source said the writer was suffering from "high fever, possibly pneumonia," but the hospital refused to confirm this, saying only that Mr. Manchester was "undergoing observation."

"He is in critical condition," said Frank Conkin, a hospital spokesman. He was admitted shortly before 1 a.m.

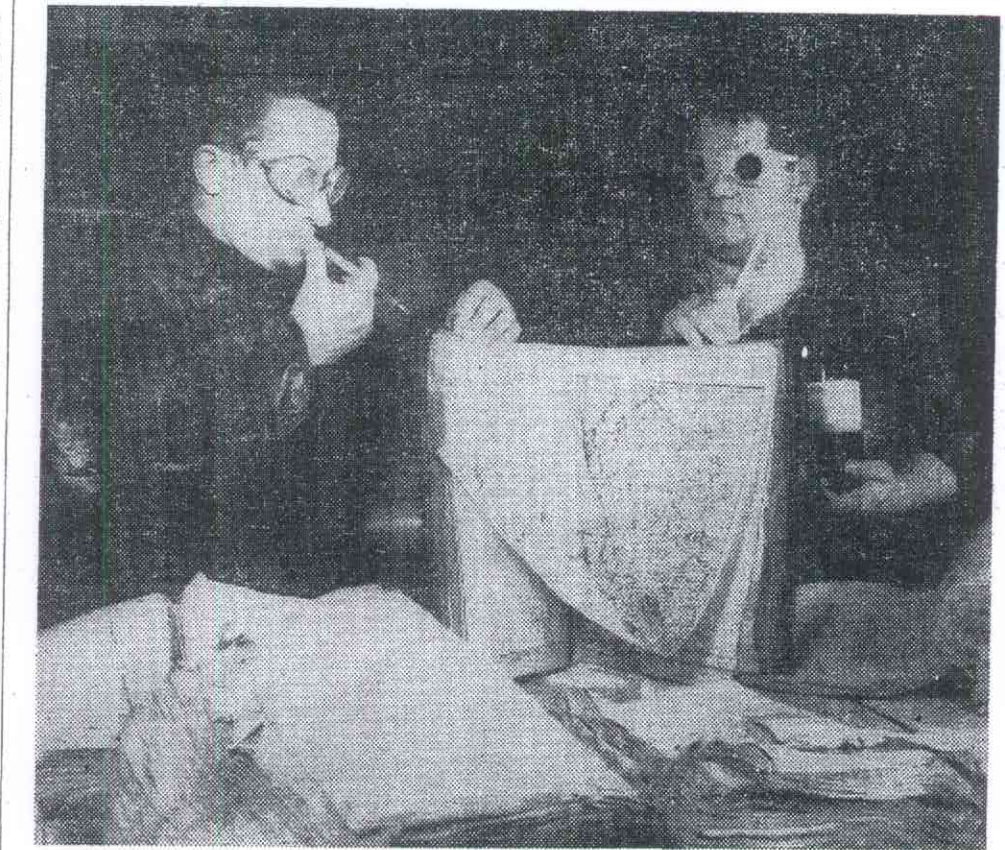
HECTIC

In early 1965, Mr. Manchester suffered a breakdown attributed to overwork and was hospitalized for a month. At the time he had been working at a hectic pace, often 16 hours a day, on "The Death of a President."

Mr. Manchester soared to national prominence recently when Mrs. John F. Kennedy filed suit against him charging the author with breach of contract and betraying her confidence.

The former First Lady's lawyers last week reached an out-of-court settlement with Look Magazine, which purchased the first serial rights to the book for \$665,000. Look agreed to delete about 1600 words recounting several "personal" recollections of Mrs. Kennedy. Negotiations with the book's publisher, Harper & Row, were continuing today. The work was scheduled to be published in book form in early April.

The 44-year-old writer



SALVAGING — Watched by an assistant Father Giosapaht Kurelo, left, head of the book restoration department of the San Nilo Abbey near Florence, Italy, injects a formaldehyde solution to loosen the pages of valuable books damaged by the recent floods that racked Italy.

the past two years researching and writing the controversial book. A friend was quoted recently as saying Mr. Manchester is "just plain tired."

A native of Massachusetts, he attended the University of

Massachusetts and the University of Missouri School of Journalism. He wrote his thesis on the life of H. L. Mencken, which took him to Baltimore and eventually resulted in a job on The Baltimore Sun. He worked on the newspaper for eight

years. In 1955, Mr. Manchester went to work as managing editor for American Educational Publications of Middletown, Conn., which publishes high school news periodicals. He left this job in 1964 to devote full time to the Kennedy assassination book.

Newsweek Gives Another Version

LBJ Took Oath on Bobby's Advice

New York, Dec. 26 (UPI) — Newsweek Magazine this week published what it reported to be President Johnson's recollections of his assumption to office following the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

The magazine's Jan. 2 issue recounts remarks Mr. Johnson allegedly made "to friends" which are reportedly at variance with the portrait of the succession in William Manchester's forthcoming book, "The Death of a President."

Mr. Manchester was selected by the Kennedy family to write an historical account of the President's death.

The book caused a storm of controversy even before publication when Mr. Kennedy's widow, Jacqueline, objected to certain portions.

Newsweek claims that Mr. Johnson stepped into the Presidency at Dallas rather than wait to assume office in Washington at the suggestion of Robert Kennedy, the Attorney-General.

PHONE CALL

According to Newsweek, Mr. Johnson recalled telephoning the dead President's brother for a ruling, saying "I hate to bother you at a time like this, but . . ."

Mr. Kennedy, according to the

magazine, told Mr. Johnson, "I think you should be sworn in there." but added that he would have someone check and call him back. Mr. Kennedy did not call back, but Nicholas DeB. Katzenbach, then Deputy Attorney General, returned the call and dictated to a Johnson secretary the exact wording that should be used for the swearing-in ceremony.

Published reports about Mr. Manchester's account of the events on Air Force One have said the author has pictured Mr. Johnson as pushing himself into the presidency with unseemly haste.

Mr. Johnson also is quoted as insisting, against Secret Service recommendations, that Mr. Kennedy's body be carried on the presidential plane with him, rather than travelling on Air Force Two.

"I wasn't going to let Mrs. Kennedy fly back alone with his body" Mr. Johnson reportedly said.

'MINOR'

The magazine said the President admitted to causing some minor friction between himself and the grieving Kennedy family — such as calling Jacqueline "honey", and dressing down the pilot for preparing to take off on a Mr. Kennedy aide's orders.

But, Newsweek contends, "Manchester's account is not nearly so anti-Johnson as some reports in the press suggest."

The magazine also presented some of the painful personal vignettes which have figured in Mrs. Kennedy's legal and editorial battle with publishers of the Manchester manuscript.

Among them is a letter she allegedly sent to her husband while on a Mediterranean holiday, one month before the assassination.

"I miss you very much — which is nice — tho it is a bit sad," she wrote. "But when I think how happy I am to miss you — I know I exaggerate everything — but I feel sorry for everybody else who is married."

LBJ WAS 'HURT'

Overall, Newsweek said, the apparently strained relations between the Kennedys and the Johnsons were caused by innocent misunderstandings.

Mr. Johnson, according to the magazine, was hurt and bewildered by charges he grabbed unfeelingly for the office, and compared his experience to that of Harry S. Truman, 18 years earlier.

Mr. Johnson said House Speaker Sam Rayburn had told him just before the death of

President Roosevelt that Vice-President Truman "doesn't think anybody likes him."

Even so, according to Newsweek Mr. Johnson recalled, no one accused Mr. Truman of personal power-lust when, that very day, he became the nation's 33rd President.

Manchester Asks Apology

Author's Tale

NEW YORK, Dec. 26 (UPI) — William Manchester said today he was reluctant to take on the job of writing "The Death of a President" but did so because he didn't have the heart to turn down Mrs. John F. Kennedy.

In a letter defending himself from another writer's charge that he committed a breach of faith, Mr. Manchester recalled the circumstances under which he accepted the former First Lady's invitation to write an account of President Kennedy's assassination.

"I vividly recall that after the telephone call from Washington asking me to undertake this project I turned to my secretary and said, 'How can I say no to Mrs. Kennedy?' She replied, 'You can't.' Nor could I."

"One did not, I felt, bargain over a national tragedy," he said.

APOLOGY

Mr. Manchester's letter, published in today's New York Times, took issue with the charge by author Theodore H. White that he had broken faith with Mrs. Kennedy in failing to abide by an agreement to submit his manuscript for approval. He said Mr. White owed him an apology.

Mr. Manchester said that "under ordinary circumstances" he would never have agreed to submit his book for approval. He cited "the nation's emotional climate in the wake of the



WILLIAM MANCHESTER

President's murder," however, and added: "It was difficult to think clearly."

"The instrument I signed provided for family ratification. It was unthinkable that the Kennedys be asked to read the book — that would have meant reliving their private tragedy; it would have been too much. Therefore a team of men, each of whom had been close to President Kennedy, was designated to represent the family."

"With the full approval of the family," Mr. Manchester said, he made the agreement with Look concerning serialization of the book.