

Manchester Book Hits Secret Service

(Continued From Page 2)

and the briefcase' — in pantomime, he dropped them and whirled in a tense crouch — 'and melted away in the crowd.'"

But Mr. Manchester said this was simply Mr. Kennedy's way of shaking off the effects of the ad. He said the President spoke casually and Mrs. Kennedy took his remarks lightly.

In the last hours of his life, Nov. 22, 1963, Mr. Kennedy was much more occupied with the political feud between conservative Gov. John B. Connally Jr. and liberal Sen. Ralph Yarborough that had drawn him to Texas.

MAKING SURE

As Lee Harvey Oswald prepared his sniper's perch at the sixth floor window of the Texas School Book Depository in Dallas, Mr. Kennedy was making sure that Sen. Yarborough rode with Vice President and Mrs. Johnson in the motorcade to the Fort Worth airport and thru Dallas.

In his minute-by-minute account of the assassination, Mr. Manchester spares few of the gory details. He also is critical of police for not spotting Oswald, clearly visible to at least four witnesses, in the window of the deserted book depository, and of others for allowing the President's personal physician, Dr. George Burkley, to wind up in a bus at the end of the motorcade in "an undignified scramble for seats" at Dallas' Love Field.

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

Mr. Manchester said that "the reflexes of the agents nearest the President were crucial in those seconds" when Oswald was taking deliberate aim for his second and final count. But, he said, reflexes of White House bodyguards are not tested and even tho they admit a man of 40 is "old" on his detail, they are assigned to the job by seniority. The two in the Presidential car were Roy Kellerman, 53, and William Greer, 48.

2D BULLET

It was the second bullet that destroyed the President's brain, Manchester said, and the damage to the skull and "red sheet" of blood that flowed from it convinced the First Lady her husband was dead.

At the hospital she was amazed to learn that he was clinically alive and that was when she decided to enter the small room where 14 doctors surrounded the President tho, according to Mr. Manchester, only three were necessary.

Fighting to get past a nurse who was trying to uphold the rule that relatives must be kept from patients, Mrs. Kennedy told Burkley, "I want to be in there when he dies." Mr. Burkley told the nurse this was Mrs. Kennedy's "perogative" and led her in. A few minutes later surgeon Kemp Clark turned to Mrs. Kennedy and said:

"I KNOW"

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

The Johnsons were waiting meanwhile in another part of

the hospital, receiving only scraps of information. With them was Secret Service Agent Rufus Youngblood, who had protected the Johnsons in the motorcade with his own body after the first shot was fired at Mr. Kennedy. He was preoccupied with thoughts of a plot. Mr. Johnson, in shock, was slumped against a wall, sniffing on a sinus inhalator.

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

NOTEBOOKS

Mr. Manchester described Mr. Johnson at that point as far readier to take orders than to issue them but "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."