

From beginning I had to theory expressed in article Bobby, without matter
 might's included in the NEW YORK POST, TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 1967 spoke in Milwaukee, when 3 & who

Kennedys and LBJ: A 'Peace Offer?'

BY MARY MCGRODY

Special Post Correspondent

Washington, Jan. 3 — Some time in the next few days, the Kennedys are expected to make a public gesture of reconciliation toward the Johnsons in an effort to draw off the poison so freely flowing in the controversy over William Manchester's account of the assassination.

An antidote is needed, the Kennedys realize, to put an end to the bitter misunderstanding about the chronicle that will begin to appear serially in Look magazine next week.

Unless they say or do something of a placating nature publicly, the Kennedys know the world will go on thinking that Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy and Sen. Robert Kennedy have never forgiven President Johnson for supposed indignities inflicted during the first terrible hours after the tragedy in Dallas.

The Rumor Version

Publication of the first installment, which, like the others, according to one reader, contains nothing derogatory to President Johnson, will do little to quiet the storm, since it will be assumed that the most lacerating references were deleted as a result of Mrs. Kennedy's suit against the author and his magazine and book publishers.

Although spokesmen for Mrs. Kennedy insisted that she appealed to the courts only to protect the personal privacy guaranteed under an agreement of control drawn up with the author, the personal and political aspects of the book have

become hopelessly entangled.

Thanks mainly to the interventions from various sources unable to bear the deprivation of being excluded from the furor, President Johnson came to be represented as the villain or the piece—appearing as an insensitive opportunist greedily reaching for the prerogatives of power during the agony of the Kennedy family and staff. This impression spread despite the fact that Mrs. Kennedy wrote several notes thanking the President for his consideration and solicitude during the change-over. **THIS WAS REAL**

Could Hurt Bobby, Not John

But during the "honeymoon" which has had the unfortunate effect of diminishing everyone directly concerned, the rumor took root that Mrs. Kennedy was fighting not just to keep out highly personal material but indiscreet comments about the Johnsons which might have grave consequences for the political future of her brother-in-law.

The President has maintained exemplary reserve during the acrimonious proceedings. Matters reached the abysmally absurd when it was soberly reported that he had affronted Mrs. Kennedy by calling her "honey" on Air Force One during the ghastly return flight to Washington.

Now that the legal dispute, at least, is on the way to settlement out of court, it has become apparent that the real victim of the hapless account might be not President Johnson but Sen. Kennedy.

LBJ in Capital

Washington, Jan. 3 (AP)—President Johnson was back at the White House today after a 17-day visit to his Texas ranch.

His first announced appointment of the day was a luncheon conference with Secretary of State Rusk and Defense Secretary McNamara.

Sen. Bobby Kennedy had not read the book but has heard all the rumors, but it is this way:

"This could really hurt Bobby. With this book, which was commissioned by the family, it is so hard on Johnson, people will think he has reverted to type and is getting even with the President."

The notion of the book as a political weapon was echoed by an unnamed friend of the President, who is quoted in the current issue of U. S. News and World Report as saying it was "part of a calculated and contrived emotional buildup—not for the sake of paying honest respect and showing genuine grief for John F. Kennedy—but to enhance the image of the Kennedy family and the Kennedy name."

If would be hard to say which family—the Kennedys or the Johnsons—is unhappier over the book. The President, undergoing severe trials over the war, least of all needs aspersions cast on his deportment during a national catastrophe. Sen. Kennedy, embroiled in a murky ex-

change over whetapping with FBI Director Hoover, cannot long sustain any public suspicion that he fomented a book reported to be so devastating to the President.

The idea of the book was born at a time when nobody could have foreseen that Robert Kennedy, crushed by grief, a lame-duck Attorney General, would rise to be elected Senator from New York and outdistance the President in popularity.

But that is the situation now and, in the evensome present, the burden of proof of their contention that they wanted only "to protect President Kennedy and the truth" is on the Kennedys. They must make amends to President Johnson and are said to be considering the best means.



MRS. JACQUELINE KENNEDY

circumstances. Meaning for her details brother killed in plane crash. This story in need papers, which will be written