

Mrs. Kennedy Sent Thanks to Johnson

port 12/14/66 By Peter Lisagor
Chicago Daily News Service

President Johnson has in his files several hand-written letters from Mrs. John F. Kennedy, expressing her gratitude for his thoughtfulness and many kindnesses in the period following her husband's assassination, it was learned here.

The letters were written at intervals in the traumatic aftermath of the tragedy, and contradict the account of Mr. Johnson's behavior toward the widow reportedly contained in William Manchester's book, "The Death of a President," according to informants.

In his controversial manuscript, Manchester allegedly pictured Mr. Johnson as boorish and thoughtless on the presidential plane at the Dallas airport and on the flight back to Washington.

Several months ago, the President's staff assembled evidence to disprove the allegations and to show that the President was not only considerate to Mrs. Kennedy and her family but deferred in every possible way to her wishes. Mrs. Kennedy's letters to the President presumably are a part of that evidence.

Mr. Johnson's own recollections of the events at the Parkland General Hospital and on Air Force One were contained in a statement he sent to the Warren Commission on July 10, 1964, and they also serve as a vivid rebuttal to charges that he lacked solicitude for the widow.

He said that Kenneth P. O'Donnell, President Kennedy's special assistant, informed him upon arrival at the plane that Mrs. Kennedy "would not leave the hospital without the President's body, and urged again that we go ahead and take Air Force One and return to Washington.

"I did not want to go and

leave Mrs. Kennedy in this situation. I said so, but I agreed that we would board the airplane and wait until Mrs. Kennedy and the President's body were brought aboard the plane."

When he was taken into the private quarters of Air Force One, Mr. Johnson recalled, "it didn't seem right for John Kennedy not to be there. I told someone that we preferred Mrs. Kennedy to use these quarters."

Later in his statement, Mr. Johnson said that when Mrs. Kennedy arrived with the coffin, "Mrs. Johnson and I spoke to her. We tried to comfort her and our words seemed inadequate. She went

into the private quarters of the plane . . ."

Mrs. Johnson dictated her recollections on a tape recorder a week after the assassination and submitted a transcript of the tapes to the Commission. She also spoke of the solicitude and consideration shown toward Mrs. Kennedy by her husband.

She quoted Mrs. Kennedy as saying "things like, 'Oh, Lady Bird, it's good that we've always liked you two so much.'"

British Book Due in '67 On Joseph Kennedy

LONDON, Dec. 28 (UPI) Another controversial book on the Kennedy family will appear in Britain in 1967, it was disclosed today.

Its author said it has not been commissioned by nor approved by the Kennedys.

The book, by George Bilainkin, 63, British author and former diplomatic correspondent, will defend the policies advocated by Joseph P. Kennedy, father of the late President, during his period as Ambassador to Great Britain from 1938 to 1940.