

12/28/66
**LBJ Version
On '63 Oath
Is Reported**

**Newsweek Says He
Got RFK Advice,
Differing With Book**

NEW YORK, Dec. 25 (AP) Newsweek magazine reported tonight that President Johnson's own recollection of his succession to the presidency differs sharply from the Kennedys' "evident perception of it" as reportedly related in the forthcoming book, "The Death of a President."

The manuscript by author William Manchester—subject of a suit by Mrs. John F. Kennedy and current negotiations with publishers to remove passages offensive to her—reportedly tells of friction between the Kennedy group and Mr. Johnson following the assassination of President Kennedy in Dallas.

One section reportedly tells of Mrs. Kennedy's shock at finding Mr. Johnson and his party already in command aboard the presidential plane, Air Force One, by the time President Kennedy's body was borne aboard in a coffin.

Another section of Manchester's book reportedly relates Mrs. Kennedy's annoyance at Mr. Johnson repeatedly calling her "honey," and what Mr. Johnson was told when he telephoned the slain President's brother, Robert F. Kennedy, then the Attorney General, for a ruling on whether he should take the oath of office immediately in Texas.

Newsweek says in a story in the Jan. 2 issue that Mr. Johnson recalls that the Secret Service wanted to put him aboard Air Force One with its

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President's Version On '63 Oath Reported

superior communications gear and to place the Kennedy coffin on the vice presidential plane, Air Force Two, which had flown Mr. Johnson to Texas.

"But Johnson ordered the body put aboard Air Force One," Newsweek says, and quotes him as explaining to intimates:

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

By Mr. Johnson's memory, Newsweek says, Robert Kennedy was not noncommittal about when he should take the oath of office as reportedly stated in the Manchester manuscript.

The magazine, says Mr. Johnson's version is that Kennedy recommended that he take the oath at once. "He recalls telephoning Bobby ('I hate to bother you at a time like this, but . . .') and asking for a ruling," Newsweek reports, adding:

"Kennedy, he said, told him: 'I think you should be sworn in there,' but Bobby also said he would check it and call back. The return call came instead from then Deputy Attorney General Nicholas deB. Katzenbach, who advised Mr. Johnson to take the presidential oath at once and dictated its wording to a Johnson secretary."

Newsweek said there also was an instance when Mr. Johnson had to exert his new authority to countermand an order by President Kennedy's Air Force aide, Brig. Gen. Godfrey McHugh, who had gone forward to tell the pilot to get the plane off the ground.

According to Newsweek's Charles Roberts, one of two newsmen aboard the plane, McHugh got his cue from a Kennedy staff member, Kenneth O'Donnell, after the coffin was hoisted aboard.

Newsweek says:

"LBJ remembers intercepting McHugh and telling him he would tell the pilot when to take off. 'I did tell him off,' Mr. Johnson conceded. He also agreed that he probably

did call Mrs. Kennedy 'honey.' 'It's a word that comes easy to me as a Texan,' he explained. 'You know, if I call some guy's office and he isn't in, I'll say to his secretary, "'Honey, have him call me when he comes in.'"