

# Dallas

AUSTIN, Tex., Dec. 27 (UPI)—President Johnson's own version of his post-assassination flight home from Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963, contrasts sharply with rumored descriptions of him as an inconsiderate boor in William Manchester's "The Death of a President."

Johnson's comments, in testimony for the Warren Commission on July 10, 1964, are his only known public remarks on the issue. Somehow, they have become obscured in a welter of rumor and speculation about Manchester's opus.

## Story: LBJ's Own

According to Johnson's testimony, this is what happened aboard the presidential plane, Air Force One, that carried the Johnson and Kennedy parties

back to Washington along with President Kennedy's body:

"We were ushered into the private quarters of

**'SHE MADE IT AS EASY AS POSSIBLE...'**

*Lady Bird Remembers Talking to Jackie, Page 5*

## Version

the President's plane. It didn't seem right for John Kennedy not to be there. I told someone that we preferred for Mrs. Kennedy to use these quarters.

"Shortly after we boarded the plane, I called Robert Kennedy, the President's brother and the attorney general. I knew how grief-stricken he was, and I wanted to say something that would comfort him. Despite his shock, he discussed the practical problems at hand—problems of special urgency because we did not at that time have any

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# Lady Bird's Account of Plane

World Journal Tribune Special

AUSTIN, Tex., Dec. 27—The swearing in of a new President in the presence of the blood-spattered but tearless widow of the dead President was poignantly described to the Warren Commission by Lady Bird Johnson.

Mrs. Johnson told the commission of the decision to have the oath of office administered to Lyndon B. Johnson aboard Air Force One in Dallas, then she de-

scribed the scene and her conversation with Jacqueline Kennedy:

"Mrs. Kennedy had arrived by this time and the coffin, and there—in the very narrow confines of the plane with Jackie on his left with her hair falling in her face, but very composed, and then Lyndon, and I was on his right, Judge (Sarah) Hughes with the Bible in front of her and a cluster of Secret Service people and congressmen

we had known for a long time—Lyndon took the oath of office."

Mrs. Johnson continued:

"We had at first been ushered into the main private Presidential cabin on the plane—but Lyndon quickly said, 'No, no' and immediately led out out of there; we felt that is whers Mrs. Kennedy should be.

"The casket was in the hall. I went in to see Mrs. Kennedy and, though it was

a very hard thing to do, she made it as easy as possible. She said things like, 'Oh, Lady Bird, it's good that we've always liked you two so much.' She said, Oh, what if I had not been there? I'm so glad I was there.'

"I looked at her. Mrs. Kennedy's dress was stained with blood. Her right glove was caked—that immaculate woman—it was caked with blood, her husband's blood.

"She always wore gloves

New York, Tuesday, December 27, 1966

## Incident

like she was used to them. I never could. Somehow that was one of the most poignant sights—exquisitely dressed and caked in blood. I asked her if I couldn't get someone in to help her change, and she said, 'Oh, no. Perhaps later I'll ask Mary Gallagher, but not right now.'

Mrs. Johnson told the commission she said to Mrs. Kennedy: "Oh, Mrs. Kennedy, you know we never even wanted to be Vice President

and now, dear God, it's come to this." Then she added in her testimony:

"I would have done anything to help her, but there was nothing I could do to help her, so rather quickly I left and went back to the main part of the airplane where everyone was seated.

"The ride to Washington was silent, strained—each with his own thoughts . . ."

# HARPER WILL

# FIGHT JACKIE

## 'Negotiations Off' on Book

By JOSEPH J. COHEN and PAUL MESKIL

*World Journal Tribune Staff*

The publishing firm of Harper & Row exploded a legal bombshell in Manhattan Supreme Court today with the announcement that it will fight Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy's move to block publication of "The Death of a President."

A high Kennedy source said the unexpected stand taken by Harper & Row means that "all negotiations are off."

The publishers had been expected to ask Supreme Court Justice Saul S. Streit for more time to reach an out-of-court settlement with Mrs. Kennedy. Rumors that such a settlement was near have been circulating for days.

Justice Streit observed: "I have no grave objections to putting the matter over as long as necessary." But instead of requesting an adjournment as expected, Harper & Row requested a hearing this week on Mrs. Kennedy's motion for an injunction to bar publication of William Manchester's 300,000-word book.

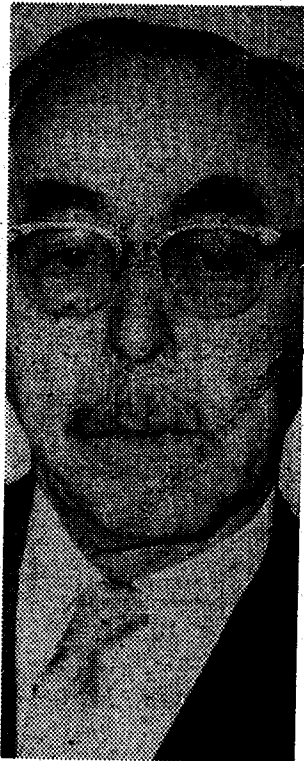
Streit approved a request by Gen. Edward S. Greenbaum, attorney for the publishers, that the hearing be held Thursday.

Outside the courtroom, Greenbaum told newsmen: "No hitch has developed. Nothing has changed. We will be back Thursday."

Mrs. Kennedy's attorney, former Federal Judge Simon H. Rifkind, seemed as surprised as other observers were by the publisher's decision to fight the injunction motion.

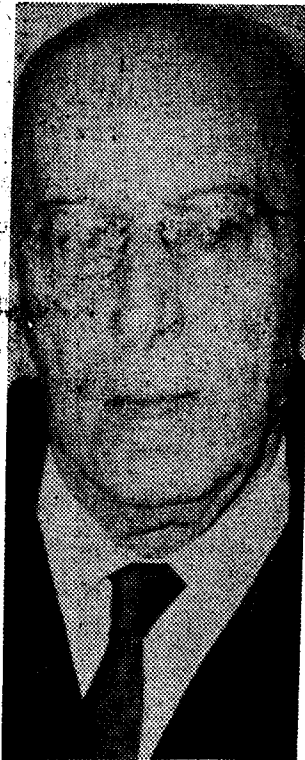
"I don't quite understand it," Rifkind said outside court, "but I won't comment."

Asked why he believed Harper & Row insisted on going ahead with the court battle, Rifkind



WJT Photo by Black

**SIMON H. RIFKIND**  
Counsel for Mrs. Kennedy



WJT Photo by Black

**GEN. E. S. GREENBAUM**  
Counsel for publishers

# Publisher Will Fight Jackie on JFK

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said: "It's beyond my comprehension."

Another source said the publishers' stand meant negotiations for an out-of-court settlement "are definitely off."

Before the formal request for a Thursday hearing was made, Greenbaum, Rifkind, and Manchester's attorney, Carleton Eldridge, held an hour-long conference in Streit's chambers.

Then Streit took the bench and called for motions. At this point, Eldridge requested an adjournment until Jan. 16 because of Manchester's illness.

The author, stricken by pneumonia, is on the critical list at Middlesex Memorial Hospital, Middletown, Conn. Hospital authorities said he is "much improved and doing very well" today.

Streit agreed to adjourn the portion of the hearing involving Manchester "provided everything remains in status quo, by which I mean that Mr. Manchester does nothing further with regard to tapes, the letters and the manuscript of the book."

## JACKIE WANTS TAPES

He referred to Manchester's tapes of a 10-hour recorded interview with Mrs. Kennedy and to letters sent to the late President by his wife and daughter-in-law, Caroline. Mrs. Kennedy has asked the court to return the tapes and letters to her.

Mrs. Kennedy, on vacation in Antigua, and her brother-in-law, Senator Robert F. Kennedy, who is on a skiing holiday in Aspen, Colo., both sent Manchester telegrams wishing him a speedy recovery.

The 44-year-old author's physician, Dr. F. Erwin Tracy, said his patient was improving and would go off intravenous feeding today and onto a regular diet.

But Tracy warned that Manchester might suffer a "reactive depression" after the ill-



AP Photo

WILLIAM MANCHESTER

ness and possibly require psychiatric care.

Manchester began to feel sick Saturday and came down with chills and fever on Sunday night, the physician said. He was rushed to the hospital in an ambulance after it was found he was running a fever of 104.2.

Tracy said his patient has been "confused and depressed" possibly as a result of the book controversy, and "is to have nothing to do with anyone who has anything to do with the book" for the next three or four days.

"The pressure lowers his resistance so he catches things more easily," the doctor said. "He has been terribly depressed."

Manchester's illness was described as "a slight touch of pneumonia in the lower left lobe" of the lung, but Dr. Tracy said a complete diagnosis will take about two days. He is expected to be in the hospital for about a week.

The author appeared to have recovered after he was treated several weeks ago for similar symptoms in London where he was working on a book, the doctor said.

One of Manchester's friends, John Payton, secretary of Wes-

leyan University, in Middletown, said the writer had been hospitalized for about a month last year after working himself into a state of exhaustion.

## LONG WORK DAY

Payton said Manchester "is almost a compulsive worker," who spent 16 hours a day working on the book.

"That kind of schedule was bound to catch up with him," Payton said. He added that Manchester had spent four weeks recuperating at Elmer-

Hospital, a private psychiatric institution in Portland, Conn.

In Middlesex Hospital, Manchester was confined to a \$43.50-a-day, air-conditioned, fifth-floor private room, allowed visitors only from his immediate family and forbidden telephone calls of "an emotional or controversial nature." His temperature was reported back to normal and he was being treated with antibiotics.

The author also was being treated for a painful scratch on

## Book

the cornea of his right eye, which he suffered Friday night when a pine needle struck him as he was trimming a Christmas tree in his home.

A Kennedy spokesman said: "Naturally, this illness makes things just that much more difficult. Manchester can't be consulted on the manuscript and that slows things, of course."

Mrs. Kennedy already has reached agreement on deleting sections of a 60,000-word serialization of the manuscript that Look magazine plans to publish in the issue on the newsstands Jan. 10. The book is scheduled for publication on April 7.