

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

- Tolson _____
- DeLoach _____
- Mohr _____
- Wick _____
- Casper _____
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- Conrad _____
- Felt _____
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- Rosen _____
- Sullivan _____
- Tavel _____
- Trotter _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holmes _____
- Gandy _____

TO : Mr. Wick *Wick*

FROM : M. A. Jones *M. A. Jones*

DATE: 2-13-67

SUBJECT: APPEARANCE OF WILLIAM MANCHESTER
ON THE TELEVISION PROGRAM
"MEET THE PRESS" ON 2-12-67

Captioned individual, who is the author of the book, "The Death of a President," appeared on the television program "Meet the Press" on 2-12-67 and was interviewed with respect to his forthcoming book.

In answer to questions posed during the course of the program, he stated substantially as follows:

Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy commissioned him to write the book as she wished to have a complete chronicle of the events that transpired on the occasion of the assassination of President Kennedy. He feels that the historical value of the book lies in the fact that he has been in a position to interview individuals closely connected with the tragedy before time has dimmed their memory of pertinent events.

He does not feel that he has broken any agreement with the Kennedys with respect to a publication date, although it was originally decided to publish the book in 1968. Manchester's purpose in publishing the book at the present time is to avoid any effect it may conceivably have upon the Presidential election in 1968. He also stated that Senator Robert Kennedy had clearly indicated to Marquis Childs, a newspaper columnist, that the old agreement had been "washed out."

Manchester was never employed or received any financial remuneration with respect to writing the book and the terms governing its publication were established in a written "memorandum" signed by Robert F. Kennedy and him. He stated that he would have prepared a document legally more binding and definitive if he had it to do again.

62-109090

NOT RECORDED
19 FEB 20 1967

1-Mr. DeLoach
1-Mr. Wick

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FEB 17 1967

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RESEARCH
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M. A. Jones to Wick Memo
RE: APPEARANCE OF WILLIAM MANCHESTER

Although he regards his book to be historically sound and objective, he admitted to deleting what he regarded as unfit material furnished to him by Mrs. Kennedy during his ten hour interview with her. The purpose is to avoid possible embarrassment or further suffering to her.

Manchester unequivocally stated that he does not believe Robert F. Kennedy was politically motivated in releasing him from the original agreement to publish the book during 1968, nor does he regard his book as hostile to President Johnson. He feels the American public will recognize that President Johnson was not unfairly dealt with in his publication as he regards the President to have acted admirably throughout the whole period immediately following the assassination of President Kennedy.

He maintained that he had not seen any photographs depicting President Kennedy's male aids present during the swearing in of President Johnson. He continued to maintain that Kenneth O'Donnell had been described to him by several eyewitnesses as walking the corridor outside the room aboard the plane in which President Johnson was sworn in.

Manchester stated that he accepts the Warren Commission Report of the assassination as a valid finding of what occurred. He felt, however, that Marina Oswald was treated too gently in her appearance before the Commission and could have shed more light upon Oswald's activities. Of all the people connected with the assassination he had approached for an interview, she was the one person who declined to see him. He does not believe any reason exists to reopen the inquiry into the assassination of President Kennedy.

No mention of the FBI was made during the course of Manchester's appearance before this panel.

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.