

Mr. Jeffrey Frank, Outlook
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Dear Jeffrey,

On the 2 a.m. CBS radio news this morning, when I had the volume low and was not close to the set, I heard part of an item that interests me much. It referred to Senator Russell, Warren Commission critics and LBJ. It was not repeated on the 3 a.m. news and there was a different item on the 4 a.m. news. That suggested that the earlier item came from the same source, 23 hours of LBJ'd disclosed tapes of conversations.

However, unless those tapes were of a period some time after the assassination, it is not easy to imagine he referred to both Russell and the critics. And that, as you know, interests me much. I have no reason to believe that any other one was in touch with him.

What CBS used on the second newscast is a conversation with Ramsey Clark in which LBJ said that Castro was not likely behind the assassination. Although what LBJ said at any time need not reflect what he really believed, that does interest me, particularly because I have a DeLoach Report intended for Hoover quoting Walter Jenkins as having told DeLoach that LBJ believed there was a conspiracy and that the CIA was involved in it. That was in connection with the catching of the wiretapper the CIA got to get the dirt on Phyllis McGuire for Sam Giancana. (I have the FBI file on that and it could make a magazine story. Wiretapper/bugger's name is Ballotti.)

If you can I'll appreciate copies of this and, in general, anything on those tapes, of which I presume transcripts were disclosed, relating to the assassination.

The researcher who worked with Pincus and Lardner on their anniversary series is Anne Eisele, if such information came to researcher attention.

The only mention I saw in today's Post referred to Jackie and LBJ, in style,

Thanks and best,

Harold

Names & Faces

LBJ on Manchester

■ President Johnson was no fan of prominent historian William Manchester, going so far as to call him a "fraud," according to documents made public yesterday by the National Archives.

"I think they are going to write history as they want it written, and as they can buy it written," Johnson said of Manchester and others, whom the president considered to favor the Kennedy family over him. Manchester's "Death of a President" chronicled the chaotic days after the assassination of President Kennedy.

According to the transcripts, which recorded conversations between Johnson and press secretary Bill Moyers, the president was particularly upset by intimations in the book that Bobby Kennedy was opposed to swearing in Johnson as quickly as he reportedly wanted to be. Manchester wrote that after Kennedy died, Johnson immediately thought of the delayed swearing-in of Harry Truman after Franklin Roosevelt's death in '45.

"I think at the moment a president dies, the vice president becomes president, and I have not discussed it with anyone to my knowledge. I've never discussed the Truman oath-taking—last week or last month," Johnson said in the transcript. "What raced through my mind was that, if they had shot our president, who would they shoot next, and what was going on in Washington, and when would the missiles be coming. And I thought that it was a conspiracy, and I raised that question, and nearly everybody that was with me raised that."

Another thorn in Johnson's side was the report that he had once called Jackie Kennedy "honey." Retorted Johnson: "I might have very well said that to Mrs. Kennedy, although I never felt that way about her and never believed it. I have held her kind of up on a pedestal and been very



President Johnson thought historian William Manchester had wronged him, according to just-released transcripts.

reserved with her . . . very proper, very appropriate, very dignified, very reserved."

Rolling in Dough

■ Gov. Edwin Edwards had quite a fling with Lady Luck last year.

The flamboyant Louisiana Democrat, long a passionate supporter of legalized gambling, raked in \$308,000 at the gaming tables, according to his federal tax return. He declared \$182,000 in gambling income in '92.

The governor's salary from his day job is set by law at \$73,440, although Edwards was paid a mere \$64,995 of that last year, according to the return.

Herrity, Taking Heart

■ Jack Herrity's heart may be failing, but his gift of gab isn't.

The former chairman of the Fairfax

County Board of Supervisors is in the hospital awaiting a heart transplant.

Herrity, 62, who survived three heart attacks during his 12 years as chairman, said he "pooh-poohed" the thought of a transplant a few months ago. Then, on Jan. 3, he collapsed in a hospital emergency room.

"I was, as they say, dead," he told The Post's Marylou Tousignant yesterday.

Now, he says he's resting comfortably in Fairfax Hospital. Among the many drugs he said he's taking is one called dopa, "which I think is pretty appropriate for a politician."

Asked if his political nemesis, Democrat Audrey Moore, who crushed him in a bitter campaign in 1987, had called, a somber Herrity said, "I wouldn't anticipate that call."

End Notes

■ Jackie Onassis, who is suffering from non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, has been hospitalized in New York. "She is expected to be here for several days," said a spokeswoman for New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center, who would not say when Onassis was admitted or identify the nature of her treatment . . . Actor Dudley Moore and longtime flame Nicole Rothschild are set to tie the knot today, just a few weeks after he was arrested for allegedly beating her . . . Los Angeles District Attorney Gil Garcetti said this week that he would announce within the next two weeks whether Michael Jackson will be charged with sexually molesting a 14-year-old boy . . . Courtney Love finally spoke for herself in a brief interview in yesterday's L.A. Times. Kurt Cobain's widow denied she had overdosed on heroin in a Beverly Hills hotel a day before his body was discovered. "It's not true," she said from her Seattle home. "I wish I could go into it, but I've been advised not to say anything."

—Compiled from staff and wire reports by Mary Alma Welch