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## Salinger Opus Reveals Ogre Side Of Johnson Ego

WASHINGTON (AP) — New indications that President Johnson can be terrible tempered when crossed are given in a just-published book by Pierre Salinger.

In a volume entitled "With Kennedy," Salinger relates his work as press secretary for the late president and — for four months — in the same post with Johnson.

For some weeks after Johnson became president he had excellent relations with the press, Salinger writes, but—

"No president's honeymoon with the press has lasted very long and LBJ's came to an end, too. Misunderstandings and resentments broke out on both sides.

"The President, accustomed to highly sympathetic treatment by the press is the weeks after the assassination, was incensed by the increasing frequency of tough questions at his press conferences and hostile editorials and columns.

"If the press had voluntarily become a partner of government in restoring national unity after Dallas, it was now clearly returning to its normal role.

"In common with JFK, President Johnson would blow sky high over news leaks from the White House, particularly those

involving presidential appointments. But he went further than President Kennedy in expressing his anger. A few of these hapless choices didn't get their appointments because of the premature announcements.

"Gradually, the President became more secretive with the correspondents. And, because I was his direct contact with them, I began to get less information.

"I had always been able to enter his office at will, if he had no visitors, but one day his secretary said I would have to arrange as appointment in the future.

"This didn't offend me. I had always had to clear with (White House aid) Ken O'Donnell before calling on JFK and, until then, I had been the only member of LBJ's staff who had the run of his office."

A sidelight on the less-than-perfect rapport between Johnson and the now Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, D-N.Y., is also provided in the book. Salinger said he used to swim in the White House pool with President Johnson and converse. Johnson told him how much he admired John F. Kennedy.

"His admiration, however," the book relates, "did not extend to Atty. Gen Robert Ken-

nedy who, he was convinced, attempted to sabotage his nomination for the vice-presidency in 1960.

"So vehement were his feelings on this matter that at one session I told him my understanding of the vice presidential nomination as outlined earlier in this book.

"It was my feeling that the whole vice presidential hassle was the result of a fatal misunderstanding, but I do not believe President Johnson was much persuaded by my story.

"He told me how (House Speaker Sam Rayburn and Sen. Robert Kerr (late senator from Oklahoma) had insisted that he refuse the enomination, saying he would be 'ruined' by running on the same ticket with 'that Catholic.' And he added that he finally convinced Rayburn and Kerr by pointing out to them that he and they considered the greater dangers of Richard Nixon being elected president."

In the earlier passage in the book, Salinger referred to the hectic hours in which Johnson was tapped as John F. Kennedy's running mate in 1960, and said:

"I believe that much of the controversy and confusion over LBJ's election is the result of a semantic misunderstanding.

When Bob Kennedy told the Johnson forces that certain labor leaders and Northern politicians were against his nomination for vice president, Bob's prime reason was to ascertain if LBJ was willing to put up a fight for it.

"But Johnson's people interpreted this as an effort to talk him out of the race. This was not Bob's intention."

Another passage in the book indicates that Johnson goes well-heeled. After Salinger broke the news in 1964 that he was leaving to run for the Democratic Senate nomination in California, Johnson told him:

"You know, of course, that I can't get mixed up in a Democratic primary, but there ought to be some way I can give you a hand. What's the filing fee out there in California?"

"I said it was \$450, Salinger relates, "but he must have heard \$250. He took two hundred-dollar bills and a fifty out of his wallet and said: 'Here's your first campaign contribution.' I made the fast decision not to tell him he was \$200 short."

Salinger got by the Democratic primary in California but hit an insurmountable obstacle in the election in the person of now Sen. George Murphy.