

## KILDUFF ON CUBA

# Ex-White House Aide Tells Why U.S. Lied

DALLAS, Tex. (AP)—“There are times when lying is justified,” says Malcolm Kilduff, a former assistant press secretary for Presidents Kennedy and Johnson.

“It’s been said before. Things actually are cleared up later.”

Kilduff’s visit here yesterday was his first since Nov. 22, 1963—the day he informed reporters that John F. Kennedy had died of wounds inflicted by an assassin.

Now a Washington public relations man, Kilduff told members of the Texas Public Relations Association about an

incident while he was working for Kennedy.

“The President was in Chicago,” he said, “and we fabricated a story that he had a 101-degree temperature, so we had to rush him back to Washington. What we didn’t say was that Russian Missiles were aimed at the United States.”

Kilduff referred to a Saturday in late October 1962 when key Washington officials reached a decision on how to deal with the Cuban missile crisis.

Robert F. Kennedy, then attorney general and a leader in the crisis talks, reportedly called his brother back to Washington for the final decision—which was a quarantine on Russian shipments into Cuba. Up to that point there had been almost no public indication on the crisis.

“Would you say a lie like that was unwarranted?” Kilduff asked.

He recalled that a U2 piloted by Francis Gary Powers crashed in Russia and President Eisenhower acknowledged that Powers was spying.

“That was a massive goof,” Kilduff said. “I would have said Powers had gone crazy or defected. We can’t admit we’ve been spying. How could we tell Khrushchev we were spying and then sit down at a peace conference with him in Paris two weeks later?”