

The Book He Didn't

Write

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By Jeannette Smyth

"I don't think you should write about campaigns you've been in," Frank Mankiewicz said last night, "it takes something off your fast ball. You do a little less."

So Mankiewicz, who was national coordinator in Sen. George McGovern's 1972 presidential campaign, has written a book about Richard M. Nixon, called "Perfectly Clear—Nixon From Whittier to Watergate", and has left the campaign memoirs for others to write.

The official publication date for the book set by The New York Times' Quadrangle Press was Wednesday. Mankiewicz went around telling guests, including McGovern's runningmate Sargent Shriver, at the party in his honor (at the home of former City Council president Gilbert Hahn) that "I'm told this is the best time: You can hold the book in your hand but the reviews aren't out yet."

Looking somewhat more rumpled and baggy-eyed than usual, Mankiewicz explained that he had just arrived by train at Union Station from a lecture-promotion tour in several cities.

The promotion part, he said, was arranged by a publicist whose specialty is getting his clients on the talk shows. "He calls up and says, 'You want Mankiewicz? No? How about Newton Minow? If you don't

want Minow, how about Gore Vidal?'"

Three Kennedy press secretaries—two former and one incumbent—were among the Hahn's guests: Mankiewicz, who worked for the late Robert Kennedy

during his 1968 primary campaigns; L'Express columnist Pierre Salinger, the late President Kennedy's spokesman, now 25 pounds lighter but still smoking cigars; and Dick Drayne, who fills the post for Sen.

Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.).

Drayne predicted that Sen. Kennedy's son, Ted Jr., whose right leg was amputated last Saturday for bone cancer, "will be out of the hospital" today or Saturday.



By Ellsworth Davis—The Washington Post

Frank Mankiewicz and R. Sargent Shriver at last night's party in the former's honor.