

LBJ Laughed

An anecdote by Mark Lane on KNEW's Joe Dolan Show Wednesday night caused BARB's phones to buzz.

Lane said that he had been on a TV show (The David Frost Show) in London with Gore Vidal, who is closely related to Jackie Kennedy. During the show, Vidal had said that the reason Mrs. Kennedy won't have anything to do with the Johnsons is that on the plane, when she went in to be with the body, she surprised Johnson in the act of chuckling over her husband's corpse.

Dolan asked Lane again, and Lane repeated it, saying that the London audience of 300 gasped collectively, but to his knowledge, none of the news services picked it up.

I first heard this story in greatest detail two days ago from an investigator of the assassination who lives in Los Angeles who heard it from Lane. Lane felt it could properly be told because it had been made public on TV.

Lane told him Gore Vidal said he had seen the text of the forthcoming Manchester book on the assassination. (The book was commissioned by Jackie Kennedy.) Included in the text was a story that Jackie Kennedy, during the flight of her husband's body, had moved to the rear of the plane and saw Johnson leaning over the casket chuckling. She vowed that from that moment on she would never have anything to do with him.

This story will not appear in the Manchester book, however, said the investigator, because it has been deleted from the text.

Hal Verb