

Mrs. Kennedy Reported to Have Rebuked de Gaulle

By ROBERT ALDEN

Mrs. John F. Kennedy took President de Gaulle of France aside just after the funeral of President Kennedy and told him of the ideals and hopes for Franco-American relations that her husband had held, according to a source who has read the manuscript of William Manchester's "The Death of a President."

Even in this hour of extreme personal distress, according to the manuscript, Mrs. Kennedy chided the French President for the obstacles she said he had put in the path of relations between the two countries.

Before the funeral, she had placed a personal letter, an emotional document, into the coffin of President Kennedy. She is described as very eager that this letter be excised from the book and from the serialization in Look magazine before they are printed.

The Manchester manuscript also makes considerable use of a number of letters that she had written to her husband, some in conjunction with their daughter, Caroline, who was 5 years old at the time. Mrs. Kennedy wants these letters omitted.

She is said to be particularly upset because Mr. Manchester included in the book a letter that she had sent to her husband from Greece one month before the assassination.

Behaved 'Like Queen'

In the book, Mrs. Kennedy is described by the source who read the manuscript "as behaving like a queen in her ability to make decisions and her assurance in making those decisions."

But the one decision that she hesitated to make herself was how best to tell Caroline of the death of her father. According to the manuscript, Mrs. Kennedy went to her mother, Mrs. Hugh D. Auchincloss, to seek advice.

Mrs. Kennedy asked her mother whether she felt it would be better for her daughter's nurse to tell the girl of the tragedy or whether she should tell her daughter herself.

Mrs. Auchincloss in this case, according to the manuscript, took matters into her own hands and asked the nurse to tell Caroline of the President's death.

"I could not help myself," the source who had read the manuscript said. "I wept when I read how the nurse told the little girl of the death of her father. It was as heartbreaking as anything in this book filled with heartbreak."

This is believed to be another portion of the manuscript that Mrs. Kennedy wants omitted because of its personal nature.

As for the Kennedy's son, John, who was then 2 years old, he had been taught to salute the flag almost as soon as he could walk. But when he tried to salute he would invariably hit his nose or his ear.

At the funeral, however, when Mrs. Kennedy, according to the manuscript, said, "Salute your Daddy," as they stood before the coffin, John for the first time gave a perfect salute.

Confusion Is Reported

The manuscript also tells much about the confusion in Texas just after the assassination, giving this picture: The police radio system failed at the time of the shooting, and, as a result, Parkland Hospital, toward which the Presidential car raced, was not informed of the shooting.

When the car arrived, no one was prepared for it, and in the attendant excitement Mrs. Kennedy was barred by a nurse from entering the room where her husband had been taken. Finally, she gained admission after a doctor had given her permission.

The Manchester manuscript was said to describe in great detail how Mrs. Kennedy insisted on staying with the coffin of her husband at every stage of the journey to Washington. It indicates that it was this insistence that had caused some friction on the airplane that took the dead President and the new President, Lyndon B. Johnson, back to Washington. The source who read the manuscript reported:

Mrs. Kennedy wanted to stay in the rear of the plane with the coffin. But Mr. Johnson requested that she appear in the picture that was taken as he took his oath of office aboard the Presidential plane.

Finally, Mrs. Kennedy came forward to appear in the picture. But at this crucial point, the official photographer's camera failed and there was a tedious delay in the most uncomfortable circumstances before the picture could finally be taken.

The coffin in which the President's body was taken to Washington is also pictured as a matter of controversy.

When the airplane, Air Force One, arrived in Washington there is confusion as to what occurred at the airport.

A fork lift truck was rolled up to the airplane to take off the coffin. A military honor guard accompanying the truck was waved away by Presidential military aides aboard the plane.

Lift Not High Enough

But the fork lift truck did not elevate into a high enough position to reach the door, and, only with great difficulty was the coffin placed aboard.

Mrs. Kennedy, along with other close associates of the

late President, jumped down onto the truck. But, according to one source who read the manuscript, President Johnson was kept from joining the party by the broad shoulders of Kenneth O'Donnell, an aide and close personal friend of the late President, who stood in the doorway of Air Force One.

Another source who read the manuscript disputes that Mr. Manchester made a point of this shouldering aside of the new President. "That was not his intention," the source said.

Mr. Manchester's personal feelings toward President Johnson are also a matter of speculation. A friend of Senator Robert F. Kennedy said yesterday that Mr. Manchester has "a poisonous dislike for Mr. Johnson."

At the end of his manuscript, Mr. Manchester is said to list 500 interviews he had with people who had knowledge of President Kennedy and the assassination. In each case he lists the date of his interview.

President Johnson's name is not listed. Mr. Manchester reportedly submitted questions to the President through Bill D. Moyers, the Presidential news secretary. The questions are said to have gone unanswered.

One editor who read the Manchester manuscript said that in his opinion the impression that the book had left was that whatever President Johnson had done he had done because he had felt it was best for the country.

"He might have been poorly advised by those around him," the editor said, "but the impression that I got from the book was that he was trying to do what he could to hold the country together at a terribly difficult time."

As for Mrs. Kennedy's objections, one reportedly involves Mr. Manchester's description of how as the party arrived at Parkland Hospital, she tried to shield from view with her hands the head wound her husband had suffered. It is said she did not want President Kennedy taken into the hospital until his head had been shielded from view by the coat of a Secret Service agent.

Mrs. Kennedy is also said to insist on the deletion of an account in the manuscript that is said to tell in her own words of the last evening she spent with her husband before they flew to Dallas. And also a portion of the manuscript that is said to describe the desperate loneliness she experienced on her first night back at the White House.

Mrs. Kennedy is also said to want the deletion of Mr. Manchester's description of her putting her own wedding band on the finger of her husband as he lay dead in Parkland Hospital.

People close to the Kennedy family said yesterday that most of Mrs. Kennedy's objections

stemmed from the sale of the magazine rights by Mr. Manchester to Look magazine for \$665,000 in July.

Phone Calls Reported

In August, Gardner Cowles and his wife, Jan, reportedly began receiving telephone calls at their apartment in New York from Mrs. Kennedy demanding deletions in the Manchester manuscript as it was to be published in Look.

According to one description, the pressures from Mrs. Kennedy were so strong that Mr. and Mrs. Cowles found themselves in a "state of terrible tension."

On one occasion, Mr. Manchester and Mr. Cowles, along with Richard Goodwin, an associate of the late President, flew to Hyannis Port to meet with Mrs. Kennedy. She is said to have vigorously condemned what Mr. Manchester and Mr. Cowles were doing.

Mr. Cowles in September agreed to certain deletions. But then Mrs. Kennedy reportedly resumed new pressure on him to suppress the entire story.