

Deleted Material

The Passages in The Book Which Distress Jackie

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For the past two weeks, reporters, columnists and publications throughout the country have been printing what they say they know of the embarrassing portions of the Manchester book, "The Death of a President," which Jacqueline Kennedy doesn't want known to the public.

Now, with an agreement reached between the President's widow and Look magazine, many of these passages will be deleted.

The deleted material has been described by Kennedy associates as "horrible, nauseating and disgusting." Here is what is reported to have been in those parts of the book which may never see print again, except possibly in pirated versions:

The Kennedys were reported to have resented Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson because he pleaded with the President to go to Dallas to help him with a local political problem which Mr. Johnson should have settled himself.

Mr. Johnson is shown as being a "weak and ineffectual" person until the assassination made him President. But the former Vice President does not emerge as unsympathetic.

There is an account in Mrs. Kennedy's own words of the last night she spent with her husband before going to Dallas.

President Kennedy was reported to be upset that his wife had selected a light pink dress for the Dallas motorcade because he learned the weather would be cold and was afraid she would become

angry for having packed away her heavier clothes.

In Dallas just before the motorcade got under way, it was reported that none of the important officials wanted to ride with Vice President Johnson and vied with each other to avoid being assigned to the Johnson car.

Senator Ralph Yarborough and Governor John Connally, both of Texas, argued over who would ride with the President in the motorcade. The President chose Connally.

During and immediately following the assassination, Mrs. Kennedy is described as being "quite angry at the world for letting this (assassination) happen." She also was insistent that "she was going to end this thing right."

After the President was shot, Mrs. Kennedy cradled his bleeding head in her lap trying to put the bullet shredded skull back together again. She tried shielding his wounds with her arms and the jacket of a secret service man. Later she told friends, she knew he was already dead in the car.

The Parkland hospital in Dallas was unprepared for the President because the police radio system had broken down and the message could not be relayed.

Mrs. Kennedy stood in the hospital corridor while doctors worked over her husband's body. A priest standing with her tried to encourage her to kneel and kiss a rosary he held in his hand. In his awkward attempts to comfort her he used such words as "honey," and "sweetie" until a presidential aide discouraged him.

Although a nurse tried to stop her, Mrs. Kennedy insisted on entering the operating room after her husband was declared dead. "You wouldn't want to see what is in there," the nurse said. Answered Mrs. Kennedy: "I can decide that for myself," and then she went in. The President's wounds were hidden by a sheet covering the top of his head.

Manchester offers a detailed account of how Mrs. Kennedy used petroleum jelly to slip her wedding band on the dead President's finger. Later in Washington, she wanted it back. The cas-

ket was opened and the ring was removed with difficulty because the fingers had swollen in death. She got the ring back.

There are quotations from a highly emotional love letter which Mrs. Kennedy placed inside the casket. Also in the casket was a letter she had sent to her husband while she had been vacationing in Greece one month before his death as well as other letters she had written with her daughter Caroline.

Mrs. Kennedy had difficulty deciding how to tell Caroline, then five, about the President's death. The President's widow asked her mother, Mrs. Hugh D. Auchincloss, for advice. A nurse was selected to break the news to Caroline that her father was dead.

After the President's death, there was the feeling among the Kennedy people in Dallas that this was Mr. Johnson's State where it happened. They didn't exactly blame Mr. Johnson, except that they felt he had brought them there.

They remembered that Adlai Stevenson had been spat upon in Dallas and they felt that Mr. Johnson was part of this environment, of this conservatism, and there was nothing the new President could have done to change their minds.

Mrs. Kennedy insisted on returning to Washington aboard Air Force One, the presidential plane. When she arrived there with the coffin of her husband, she found Mr. Johnson and his aides aboard. He had come to Dallas aboard Air Force Two, the Vice President's plane.

It was reported that Mr. Johnson was in Mr. Kenne-

dy's quarters attired in a dressing gown and eating a bowl of soup when Mrs. Kennedy arrived.

The new President urged Mrs. Kennedy to change her bloody attire but she refused. She went to a compartment in the rear of the plane which had been assigned to her by Mr. Johnson and found a change of clothing there.

But she insisted on wearing her bloodied attire and still was clad in that pink, red stained dress in Washington. It was reported she wanted to wear her bloody clothes so "they can see what they've done."

In the plane, Mr. Johnson's main interest was to let the world know that the government of the United States still was operating and his first concern was about being sworn in as President. But he had difficulty reaching Robert F. Kennedy, then the attorney general, and when finally contacted Robert Kennedy was noncommittal about Mr. Johnson's desires.

Bobby Kennedy was reported to have said about Mr. Johnson: "Here is the man who has been wishing, he had been President all along and here he is grabbing it."

Mr. Johnson is reported to have been sympathetic to the Kennedy people aboard the plane but bewildered by their hostility. There was tension between the two groups throughout the flight back to Washington.

Reported one witness: "The guy is in a state of shock and confused by the hostility of the Kennedy clan." But one Johnson aide aboard the plane was reported to have said, "Well, Kennedy's not President anymore."

Mr. Johnson's insistence after the swearing-in in Dallas to take the presidential plane back to Washington "shocked and infuriated" the Kennedy people, and throughout the trip back they refused to talk to the Johnson people. One high Kennedy aide reportedly told a newsman on the flight, "make sure you report that we rode in the back with our President and not with him!"

For the swearing-in ceremony, Mr. Johnson wanted Mrs. Kennedy to pose in a photograph with him. She obliged but the camera of the

official photographer didn't work and there was an awkward wait before the second shot was taken.

When the plane arrived in Washington, a military guard of honor was waved away by Kennedy aides. The coffin was unloaded with great difficulty because the fork lift could not reach the aircraft door. Mrs. Kennedy and her associates had to jump from the plane to the truck bearing the coffin.

But when Mr. Johnson wanted to follow his path was barred by Kenneth O'Donnell, a personal friend of Mr. Kennedy, who stood in the doorway. Some people say O'Donnell's behavior was not deliberate.

There was a dispute between Mr. Johnson and Bobby Kennedy over Mr. Johnson's decision to address Congress and the Nation four days after the assassination.

Mr. Johnson agreed to wait an extra day.

In the Navy Hospital in Bethesda, Md., where Mrs. Kennedy was awaiting an autopsy report on her husband, she was told of Lee Harvey Oswald's arrest. Robert Kennedy said, "they think they found the man who did it. They say he is a Communist."

Mrs. Kennedy answered, "that's absurd!" She later said of her late husband, "he didn't even have the satisfaction of being killed for civil rights. It had to be some silly little Communist . . . it even robs his death of any meaning."

When told that Jack Ruby killed Oswald, Mrs. Kennedy was reported to have remarked that it was an "awful" deed.

The late President's son, John-John, then two, made a perfect salute for the first time when he was urged by his mother to "salute your daddy," as they stood before the coffin. Although John-John had long been taught how to salute, he could never master the maneuver. He would usually hit his nose or ear in the process. But his salute was perfect at his father's bier.

There is a heartbreaking description of Mrs. Kennedy sleeping alone in Washington on the first night after the assassination when she

scratched at the dark and the pillow where her husband once slept.

During the funeral ceremony, Mrs. Kennedy admonished French President Charles de Gaulle for having put "obstacles" to her husband's hopes for improvement in Franco-American relations.

There was friction in the White House when Mr. Johnson reportedly tried to requisition office space for his secretarial staff before he moved in.

There was dispute over whether to bury Mr. Kennedy in Massachusetts or in Arlington National Cemetery. Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara insisted on Arlington and the Kennedy family wanted Massachusetts. Mrs. Kennedy sided with McNamara.

Mr. Johnson happened to be visiting the President's oval office in the White House on the day after the assassination. It appeared as if he was trying to move in too fast when actually he was quieting his own aides as they urged him to take charge. Manchester writes.

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