

## Aboard the Plane

# Johnson Version Of Dallas Events

New York Times

New York

Newsweek magazine says it has learned President Johnson is unhappy with some of the accounts of events following the assassination of President Kennedy as they are reportedly portrayed in William Manchester's forthcoming book, "The Death of a President."

The magazine, in its issue that will appear on newsstands today, quotes the President as telling "intimates" that his own recollections of a number of events differ from descriptions in the book.

According to Newsweek, for example, Mr. Johnson has been quoted as saying that the Secret Service wanted him to board Air Force One, with its "superior communications gear," while the Kennedy coffin was to return to Washington in the vice presidential plane, Air Force Two. But Mr. Johnson ordered the body to be placed on the Presidential jet, and dressed down the pilot for preparing to take off on a Kennedy aide's orders.

"I wasn't going to let Mrs. Kennedy fly back alone with his body," Mr. Johnson is quoted by Newsweek as telling intimates.

### COMMENTS

A White House spokesman said last night that the magazine in its report had apparently matched past comments made by Mr. Johnson to what is reported to be detailed in the book scheduled for publication in April.

"The President has not given any interviews," said the spokesman. "In fact he has not spoken in any way to the issue of the Manchester book."

The Manchester book, excerpts of which are scheduled to be published in Look magazine beginning with its January 10 issue, reportedly pictures Mr. Johnson as being insensitive to Jacqueline Kennedy's feelings in the

hours immediately after the assassination.

"Now," says Newsweek, "intimates say, he is 'as puzzled as anyone else' about the flap. Unhappy about the evolving portrait of himself in the stories about the Manchester book, he understands at the same time that the Kennedy set would have resented anyone who succeeded John Kennedy."

But Newsweek says that Manchester's account "is not nearly so anti-Johnson as some reports in the press suggest."

"The Kennedy staff's animus towards Johnson was directed only in part at the new President personally," says the magazine. "It was a function as well of their sense of loss and their almost inevitable hostility to anyone taking JFK's place."

### DIFFERENT

Newsweek also reports that Mr. Johnson has a different version of the circumstances under which he took the oath of office before returning to the Capitol.

According to the President's memory, Newsweek says, Robert Kennedy was noncommittal about when Mr. Johnson was to take the oath of office as reportedly stated in Manchester's book.

Mr. Johnson is quoted as saying that he telephoned then Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, the slain President's brother, in Washington and saying "I hate to bother you at a time like this, but . . ." and then asking for a ruling.

Mr. Johnson said that Kennedy told him that he thought the swearing-in should take place in Dallas, but that the Attorney General would check and call him back.

### KATZENBACH

Mr. Johnson, according to the Newsweek version, said the return call came from the then Deputy Attorney General Nicholas Katzenbach who advised Mr. Johnson to take the Presidential oath at once and then dictated its wording to a secretary. Katzenbach, reached at his Washington home last night, confirmed he dictated the oath.

Another reported misunderstanding in the Manchester manuscript, according to Newsweek, related that Lady Bird Johnson "recalls that, in an effort to console Jackie, she had mentioned her sor-

row that the tragedy took place in Texas — and then immediately realized what an unfortunate thing that was to say under the circumstances."

Some accounts immediately following the assassination suggested Mr. Johnson has "all but dragooned" Mrs. Kennedy into position for the photograph of the swearing-in ceremony.

### SYMBOL

But Newsweek says that "actually Mr. Manchester's version is that Mrs. Kennedy recognized the historical imperative of standing at LBJ's side as a symbol of the continuity of the Presidency and took her place by choice."

According to the magazine account, Mr. Johnson's own recollections of the assassination "have a touching quality all their own."

"What raced through his mind when he learned the President was dead," says the magazine, "was no personal thrust for power but rather the memory of the day Harry Truman suddenly inherited the Presidency from Franklin D. Roosevelt more than 18 years before."

### MORAL

"The moral Mr. Johnson seemed to be drawing last week, without spelling it out," says the magazine account, "was that no one at the time suggested that Truman had shown unseemly haste in promptly taking the Presidential oath."

Newsweek magazine says that there are many examples of small misunderstandings "mostly innocent, that caused friction" between the Kennedy and Johnson factions before and during the journey to Washington.

"LBJ is reported to have repeatedly called Mrs. Kennedy 'Honey' — a well intended gesture that she found grating," says the magazine.

In the Newsweek account Mr. Johnson is reported to have admitted probably calling Mrs. Kennedy "Honey."

### 'HONEY'

"It's a word that comes easy to me as a Texan," he is quoted as explaining. "You know, if I call some guy's office and he isn't in, I'll say to his secretary, 'Honey, have him call me when he comes in.'"

The magazine also presented some of the painful personal vignettes which have

figures in Mrs. Kennedy's legal and editorial battle with publishers of the Manchester manuscript.

Among them is a letter she allegedly sent to her husband while on a Mediterranean holiday, one month before the assassination.

"I miss you very much — which is nice — though it is a bit sad," she wrote. "But when I think how happy I am to miss you — I know I exaggerate everything — I feel sorry for everybody else who is married."