

Jackie's Letters To Johnson

Chicago

The Chicago Daily News said yesterday that President Johnson has on file several letters from Jacqueline Kennedy that contradict reports of his behavior toward her at the time of President Kennedy's assassination.

In the controversial manuscript of William Manchester's book, "The Death of a President," Mr. Johnson reportedly is shown as boorish and thoughtless on the presidential plane at the Dallas airport and on the return flight to Washington.

Peter Lisagor, Chicago Daily News Washington bureau chief, reported that President Johnson has several handwritten letters from Mrs. Kennedy expressing her gratitude for his thoughtfulness and many kindnesses in the period after the assassination.

The dispatch stated that "the letters were written at intervals in the traumatic aftermath of the tragedy and contradict the account of Mr. Johnson's behavior toward the grief-stricken widow . . . according to informants."

The White House staff has been explicitly instructed not to discuss the Manchester book or any matters pertaining to it. But Lisagor said:

"However, it is known that when rumors of the author's unflattering portrayal of Mr. Johnson's actions and words began to circulate several months ago, the President's staff assembled evidence to disprove the allegations and to show that the President was not only considerate to Mrs. Kennedy and her family but deferred in every possible way to her wishes.

"Mrs. Kennedy's letters to the President presumably are a part of that evidence."

Associated Press

Schlesinger Lines Up on the Side of Jackie

New York

Historian Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr. said yesterday that the effort to publish material from ten hours of soul-baring tape-recordings Jacqueline Kennedy gave to

author William R. Manchester was "a breach of taste and confidence."

Publication of Manchester's book, "The Death of a President," in its orig-

inal form would seriously hamper the work of historians since no one would ever again submit to such interviews, he said.

Schlesinger told newsmen after a meeting of the Amer-

ican Historical Society that he had had similar interviews with Mrs. Kennedy before writing his own book, "A Thousand Days."

But he said, "It never occurred to me that the tapes

and transcripts resulting from my interviews were mine to be used at my discretion."

Asked in an interview what time period he felt should be placed on the writing of the

Kennedy personal life, Schlesinger said:

"I would recommend that nothing in her taped interviews be disclosed until every one mentioned is dead."

Associated Press