

# New Details In Book on JFK Slaying

NEW YORK — (UPI) — A quarrel among Democrats took John F. Kennedy to Dallas against the advice of friends, and Lee Harvey Oswald's rejection by his wife was the coincidental trigger that led him to assassinate the President.

These factors emerge in new detail in the first installment of William Manchester's book, "The Death of a President," published in Look magazine.

The magazine will appear Tuesday.

Manchester's account of the 1963 tragedy — subject of a court battle by Mrs. John F. Kennedy — also disclosed that at the time of his death, the President was:

- Considering replacing Secretary of State Dean Rusk, probably with Robert McNamara.

- Studying French to negotiate with Gen. Charles de Gaulle in his own language.

- Planning a trip to Japan to restore American prestige lost when leftist riots prevented a visit by President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

## RUSK REPORT

The assertion about Rusk revived an old report by Washington columnists Stewart and Joseph Alsop, denied at the time by former members of the Kennedy Administration. Manchester said:

"Aware that the President intended to be his own foreign minister, Rusk had leaned on him increasingly in other ways . . . After the second inaugural, the cabinet would almost certainly be headed by McNamara.

"Bobby (Sen. Robert F. Kennedy) had tentatively decided that once Rusk had left, he would ask to be assistant secretary for inter-American affairs."

## FOUR CHAPTERS

The condensation of the first four chapters of the

book published said Kennedy felt the trip to Dallas was an "imposition" because Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson ought to have been able to resolve the "petty dispute" between Texas politicians himself.

Manchester reported heated discussions of the matter with Johnson marred the President's last night alive.

At almost the same hour on Nov. 21, 1963, Mrs. Oswald was toying with the emotions of her near-crazed husband in the home of Mrs. Ruth Paine in Irving, Tex., where she had taken refuge from her unhappy marriage.

Manchester maintained she drove Oswald over the brink of insanity that evening by rejecting the gift of a washing machine, saying she "had found asylum here with Ruth" and "could manage without him."

## NO INDORSEMENT

Look's serialization was published with an editor's note stating that neither Mrs. Kennedy nor Robert Kennedy "has in any way approved or

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indorsed" the material in the articles.

Mrs. Kennedy brought suit Dec. 16 to prevent Manchester, Look and the publishing firm of Harper & Row from publishing the book without her authorization.

A settlement was reached with Look, involving some deletions and modifications. Look paid \$665,000 for the 60,000-word serialization.

A magazine spokesman said "only one minor modification was made in the first installment, strictly relating to Mrs. Kennedy's personal feelings and in no way bearing on political and historical events."

Informed sources said the modification involved an intimate letter the former First Lady wrote her husband from Greece during a vacation a month before the assassination.

The serialization says only that she told him "how much she missed him" in the letter.

## REACTIONS

The Manchester account dealt frankly, however, with her reactions to Texas Gov. John B. Connally Jr., who accompanied the Kennedys on

their appearances in San Antonio, Houston, Fort Worth and Dallas, where Connally was wounded by Kennedy's assassin.

It said she told her husband, "I can't stand him all day. He's just one of those men . . . I just can't bear his sitting there saying all these great things about himself. And he seems to be needling you all day."

"You mustn't say you'll dislike him, Jackie," the President is quoted as replying.

"You'll begin thinking it, and it will prejudice how you act toward him . . . What he was really saying in the car was that he's going to run ahead of me in Texas. Well, that's all right. Let him . . ."

## TRUCE SOUGHT

Manchester said Kennedy agreed to go to Texas to cloak a rift between Connally, a conservative, and Sen. Ralph Yarborough, a liberal, with a show of solidarity.

Without a truce, Kennedy and Johnson felt, "the national ticket wouldn't stand a chance there next fall in the 1964 elections," the book said.

It added Kennedy had made up his mind not to alienate Connally, while standing by Yarborough.

Kennedy went to Texas forewarned of possible trouble by Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey of Minnesota, House whip Hale Boggs of Louisiana, UN Ambassador Adlai E. Stevenson, Sen. J. William Fulbright of Arkansas, and Texas Democratic National Committeeman Byron Skelton.

Skelton felt so strongly he flew to Washington to try to prevent the visit, but to no avail.

## CHALLENGE

The book said these men feared embarrassment to the President, not assassination.

Manchester described Kennedy's attitude as "the thought that an American President would not go into any American city was simply unacceptable."

But, the author said, Kennedy had "committed the ultimate outrage" by challenging Dallas' "tribal instincts," rooted in the old frontier, and violently opposed to Kennedy's New Frontier of "diversity, tolerance and non-conformity."

"To be sure, the Dallas assassin did not belong to a conventional criminal conspiracy," Manchester wrote.

"Lee Harvey Oswald was called a loner . . . Yet no man lives in a void. His very act is conditioned by his time and his society . . .

"There was something in Dallas unrelated to conventional politics — a disease of the spirit, a shrill hysterical note suggestive of a deeply troubled society."

#### WARNING

The political maneuvering that greeted Kennedy in Texas was illustrated by Connally's attempts to make Yarborough ride in Johnson's limousine in the motorcade, the book said.

Yarborough took the counsel of his liberal advisers, who warned of a Connally-Johnson political plot, and rode elsewhere.

Manchester said the press corps drew the obvious conclusion that Johnson "was losing face" as a result of the snub.

The book said the Yarborough matter was subject to loud discussion in a Houston hotel toom after the first day of the Texas visit, but Manchester reported precisely what was said is unknown.

#### TEMPER

"Mrs. Kennedy had withdrawn into the next room," he wrote. "Although she was aware of raised voices in the background, she was concentrating on her Spanish speech.

"Caterers and hotel servants, who were in and out, heard Yarborough's name mentioned several times.

"Johnson controlled his celebrated temper in his chief's presence, but in the words of one man outside, 'He left that suite like a pistol'.

"Max Peck, watching him shoot into the corridor, long legs pumping, thought he looked furious.

"What was that all about?" Jacqueline asked, coming in after the vice president had left. 'He sounded mad'. The President looked amused. 'That's just Lyndon . . .' he said. But he's in trouble."

Manchester said Johnson's own account of the incident 19 months later was that it was "definitely not a dis-

agreement" . . . but then added "there was an active discussion" in which he and Kennedy "were in substantial disagreement."

The author did not explain the contradiction, adding only that Johnson "did not define the nature of the discussion."

#### FOOTNOTES

The book contains such footnotes to history as Kennedy's displeasure with his Air Force aide, Brig. Gen. Godfrey McHugh, whose predictions on cold weather in Texas proved wrong after Mrs. Kennedy had packed a woolen wardrobe.

The President was pictured as greatly pleased by his wife's enthusiasm over sharing the "campaign" trip and "he wanted her to enjoy the trip so she would make others."

The President personally passed on her wardrobe for the trip, telling her she would mingle with "all these rich Republican women . . . wearing mink coats and diamond bracelets," Manchester wrote.

"But simply show these Texans what good taste really is." Kennedy was quoted as advising his wife.

#### REJECTION

Manchester outlined Oswald's deprived childhood and his growing feeling of rejection, which developed into paranoia.

He described his wife's preference to live with Mrs. Paine, an ordained Unitarian minister and mother of two who was separated from her husband, as the straw that broke Oswald's slender hold on sanity.

"Ruth finally made it clear that she didn't want him in the house and Marina didn't either," the book said. "He would be allowed to see his children occasionally, but he must learn to accept the fact that his wife made a new home with Ruth now."

Manchester used correspondence between Mrs. Oswald — now Mrs. Kenneth J. Porter — and Mrs. Paine, which was published by the Warren Commission.

" . . . I am very hurt that Lee's attitude toward me is such that I feel each minute that I bind him," she wrote her friend.

#### GRATEFUL

In a letter, Mrs. Paine wrote that "if Lee doesn't

wish to live with you any more . . . I would be happy to be as an aunt to you."

She wrote the next day to Marina: "I love you, Marina, and want to live with you. I hope that you and Lee will agree."

Manchester quoted Marina's reply:

"Dear, sweet Ruth!" and ". . . Sweet Ruth, I am so grateful for your good and sympathetic heart."

The author blamed Mrs. Oswald for "playing Ruth off against" Oswald while failing to divulge to her protectress the "horror" of what she knew about her husband.

She did not tell Mrs. Paine about her husband's aliases, his attempt to shoot Gen. Edwin Walker, the rifle he had concealed in a neighboring garage and his plans to go to Cuba.

"In retrospect, her own lack of consideration for the woman who had become her benefactor appears inexcusable," Manchester concludes.