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(200) WITH LOOK-MANCHESTER

WASHINGTON, JAN. 7 (AP)-SENATE DEMOCRATIC LEADER MIKE MANSFIELD OF MONTANA SAID TODAY THAT PRESIDENT JOHNSON HAS "CONDUCTED HIMSELF WITH DIGNITY AND DECORUM" IN A CONTROVERSY SURROUNDING THE BOOK WRITTEN BY WILLIAM MANCHESTER, "THE DEATH OF A PRESIDENT."

MANSFIELD SAID HE HAS NO KNOWLEDGE THAT FIVE PROMINENT DEMOCRATS STRONGLY ADVISED THE LATE PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY NOT TO VISIT DALLAS, TEX., IN NOVEMBER 1963 BECAUSE OF FEAR OF ANTAGONISM TO HIM THERE.

THIS DISCLOSURE WAS MADE IN THE FIRST INSTALLMENT OF A FOUR-PART, 60,000-WORD SERIALIZATION OF MANCHESTER'S BOOK BY LOOK MAGAZINE.

THERE HAVE BEEN ADVANCE REPORTS THAT SOME OF JOHNSON'S ACTIONS HAVE BEEN CRITICIZED BY PERSONS QUOTED IN MANCHESTER'S BOOK.

"AS TIME GOES ON THERE WILL BE A LOT OF STORIES, SOME TRUE AND SOME NOT, REFLECTING ON THAT TRAGIC PERIOD," MANSFIELD SAID. "I THINK WE WILL HAVE TO LEAVE IT TO HISTORY TO FORM ITS OWN JUDGMENT.

"IN THE WAKE OF CHARGES, INNUENDO AND IMPLICATIONS, PRESIDENT JOHNSON HAS CONDUCTED HIMSELF WITH DIGNITY AND DECORUM. HE IS WILLING TO LET HISTORY BE THE FINAL JUDGE OF HIS BEHAVIOR IN DALLAS AND THROUGHOUT HIS TENURE AS PRESIDENT."

MANSFIELD SAID HE KNEW NOTHING ABOUT ANY FRICTION BETWEEN KENNEDY AND JOHNSON, THEN VICE PRESIDENT, DURING THE TRIP TO TEXAS.

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