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Manchester 'Promise' to O'Donnell

Boston

Former presidential assistant Kenneth P. O'Donnell said yesterday that William Manchester, author of "death of a President," promised him that none of the information he gave Manchester would be published before the 1968 election.

O'Donnell said in an interview with the Boston Globe that he and other aides of the late John F. Kennedy consented to be interviewed for the book "only on the basis that none of the information would appear" before the next presidential election.

"For him to say now that the agreement referred to the book and not to magazine articles is silly on its face," O'Donnell said.

Manchester "never mentioned magazine serialization to me," O'Donnell said. "This wasn't any contract with Senator Robert F. Kennedy. This was his promise to me."

Associated Press