

Why JFK Went to Dallas

CHICAGO — (UPI) — Carl T. Rowan, former director of the United States Information Agency, has taken issue with William Manchester, author of the controversial book "Death of a President," on the reasons for the late President Kennedy's fatal trip to Dallas.

Rowan's column appears regularly in the Examiner.

Rowan, writing in the current issue of Ebony, a leading Negro weekly, said Kennedy went to Dallas because of his concern for the Negro.

Manchester said Kennedy went to Texas to patch up a political feud on which then Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson had requested help.

Rowan said, "He thought his mission was to restore the sanity of the American people."

"He was the target of violent suspicions and raw hos-

tility on the part of millions of white Americans who argued that he had gone too far in the support of the Negro," Rowan wrote.

He quotes Kennedy in a conversation on Nov. 20, two days before his assassination: "Hatred is spreading across the country like a plague. The bigots ... are like a plague."

"I have made up my mind that a President is obligated to use the prestige of his office to try to halt this damned madness."

"I have concluded that I am partly to blame because I haven't got out among the people enough. I'm going to Texas tomorrow partly because I believe it is something I am obligated to do."

Rowan concludes, "Those words by President Kennedy, only hours before his tragic journey, are not in accord with the reasons for the trip given by Manchester in his controversial book."

The conversation with Kennedy occurred in Washington when Rowan, then ambassador to Finland, reported on his first six months as the U.S. ambassador to the country, Rowan said.