

What is it? ↓

Johnson's Reaction to Manchester's Book

By Don Wegars

William Don Attwood, editor-in-chief of Look magazine and former United States ambassador to Guinea and Kenya, stopped off at the Fairmont Hotel yesterday and — for the first time — revealed the reaction of President Johnson to William Manchester's controversial book "Death of a President."

"Well," Attwood said, "the White House called us up and complained about not getting their subscription."

But surely the President was upset at reports that ...

"Well," he said, "Johnson was very smart by staying out of it completely."

The 47-year-old editor wasn't reluctant to talk about



WILLIAM ATTWOOD
'In the past'

the Manchester book, Look's serialization of it, or the conflicts with the Kennedy family.

It was just that, officially, he was in town to plug his own book, "The Red sand the Blacks," which Harper and Row published last month. It reports on his experiences as ambassador to Guinea and Kenya from 1961 to 1966.

Attwood said his book was not as controversial as Manchester's.

"It's really an optimistic report," he said. "There aren't any villains in the piece — although I do take a few swipes at Richard Nixon. But then who hasn't?"

The real problems in the foreign service, he said, are its increasing bureaucracy and the limited funds available for aid because of the war in Vietnam.

Attwood, whose diplomatic and editing jobs have given

him an impressive list of contacts, also noted that:

● President Johnson wants to run against Michigan Governor George Romney in 1968.

● The Republicans would stand a chance of winning if they nominated New York Governor Nelson Rockefeller and Illinois Senator Charles Percy for president and vice president — "but they won't."

● "Anyone who thinks Bobby Kennedy is trying for the Democratic nomination in 1968 doesn't know politics."

But about the Manchester book, how important ...

"Look," he said. "We supplied United Air Lines with 1800 copies of the first issue and they were all stolen within 24 hours."

"If people will break the law for something it has to be pretty good."