

**BOOK REPLY AVOIDED
BY SECRET SERVICE**

WASHINGTON, March 17 (AP) — Officials of the Secret Service and the treasury Department have refused to reply publicly to criticism contained in William Manchester's "The Death of a President," a book about the assassination of President Kennedy.

David C. Acheson, special assistant to the Secretary of the Treasury, told a House Appropriations subcommittee Feb. 9:

"If I thought it would minimize the problem, or give the Secret Service the last word over Mr. Mancheste, we would have made a clarifying statement very early in the game, but I am quite sure it will only perpetuate the argument."

The hearing transcript, made public today, showed that both Mr. Acheson and Rufus W. Youngblood, assistant director of the service, had asked to go "off the record" in replying to questions based on the book magazine of the Manchester book.

Mr. Manchester wrote that the President's guards were slow in acting at the time of the shooting and that they were leaderless and confused.