

Manchester Cites Warren 'Invitation'

A.P. & U.P.

New York

Author William Manchester says Chief Justice Earl Warren "invited" him to state that the findings of the Warren Commission on the assassination of President Kennedy were wholly acceptable to the Kennedy family.

Writing in Look magazine about his dispute with the Kennedys over his book, "The Death Of A President," Manchester says Warren gave him access to the testimony and all other evidence taken by the commission. He adds:

"Rather cannily, I thought, the Chief Justice had also invited me to read a first draft of the report and declare, as a friend of the family, that its findings were acceptable to the Kennedys in every respect."

Manchester writes that he "demurred" on grounds that this would be improper.

ARTICLE

The Look article is scheduled to go on newsstands tomorrow.

In another comment on the Warren Commission, Manchester says:

"As I then knew, and as the Nation has since discovered, the prestigious names on Earl Warren's panel did little except glitter; the long hours were put in by junior staff men."

Manchester's article also criticizes Theodore Sorensen and Pierre Salinger, White House aides to President Kennedy, in connection with books they wrote about the Kennedy administration.

He says they both capitulated to demands by the

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Kennedys for changes in their manuscripts.

"Like Pierre Salinger the following year, Ted took the easy way, giving way on point after point and weakening what should have been a great volume," the article says. "I spent two hours begging him to hold his ground. He refused. He was a public figure, not a writer; he couldn't see the principle involved."

Arthur Schlesinger Jr., another former White House assistant, resisted the Kennedys' efforts to change the book he wrote about President Kennedy. Thereafter, Manchester wrote, Schlesinger's relations with Jacqueline Kennedy became "chilly."

He said Schlesinger sent him a six-page memo and urged that he restore some self-imposed deletions in his book, describing the manuscript as "remarkable and potentially a great book."

Mrs. Kennedy and her brother-in-law, Senator Robert F. Kennedy chose Manchester, on Salinger's recommendation, to write the authorized history of the assassination of the president. He and the Senator, on March 26, 1964, signed a

"memorandum of understanding" which gave the Kennedys the right to approve the book before publication.

However, Manchester said Mrs. Kennedy, in a memo sent to another author on October 1, 1964, said the book would be published "with no censorship from myself or from anyone else." He said he was sent a carbon copy.

Not long after Manchester completed the book in the spring of 1966, those who read the manuscript began suggesting changes.

One of these who read it was John Seigenthaler, editor of the Nashville Tennessean, and a former associate of Sen. Kennedy in the justice department.

Manchester writes:

"John had already approved the manuscript. But now he (or someone) was beginning to have second thoughts—political thoughts.

"Among other things, he wanted a new version of President Johnson's first cabinet meeting, eliminating the friction between Johnson and Bob (Kennedy). It would in brief have constituted outright distortion and was swiftly rejected."

The author indicates that

he believes most of his troubles over the proposed changes in his manuscript stemmed from Mrs. Kennedy.

He writes:

"... It is easy to see how she had come to think of the author she had chosen as a member of her court. She had even persuaded herself, as she wrote another writer, that she had 'hired' me — a slip I find fascinating. Under these circumstances, it was inconceivable to Jacqueline Kennedy that I should deny her anything... I was a writer, not a courtier."

As to being "hired" to write the history of the tragedy in Dallas, Manchester has repeatedly stated that he received no money from the Kennedys. He says he used his own money.

Manchester writes that he invested, not only his savings, but 30 months of his life in writing the book. Nonetheless, the article continues, when his dispute with the Kennedys was at its height, Robert Kennedy wired Harper & Row, the publisher, "... I feel the book on President Kennedy's death should neither be published nor serialized. He asked the publishers to so inform Manchester.

SF Examiner, 20 Mar. 1967

\$5 Million for JFK Library

NEW YORK — (UPI) — Author William Manchester says the John F. Kennedy Library in Cambridge, Mass., will receive more than \$5 million from his book, "The Death of a President."

In noting he received \$665,000 for the Look magazine serialization, Manchester said Mrs. John F. Kennedy denounced this as 'commercialization'.

Manchester made the statement in an article in the current issue of Look magazine.