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New Dallas Version



WASHINGTON — Controversy over the book by William Manchester, which the Kennedy family had hoped would end all controversy about the assassination of President Kennedy, will soon flare up again.

TEXAS GOV. John Connally, who was gravely wounded by Lee Harvey Oswald as he rode with President Kennedy in the fatal Dallas motorcade, is disturbed by several portions of the Manchester account.

He is therefore writing his own version of the events relating to the President's 1963 visit to Texas and the assassination to refute what he believes to be inaccurate and misleading sections of the book.

"Death of a President," authorized by the Kennedy family, has been under attack since its manuscript first began circulating. Renewed complaints about its contents arose last week, with the publication of excerpts from Manchester's first draft that had been edited out of the final transcript.

The quoted excerpts dramatically illustrated that the author had a tendency for exaggeration and distortion more appropriate in a work of fiction than in a historical document.

Manchester's book described Gov. Connally in terms nearly as harsh as those he reserved for President Johnson, including such words as "guile" and "greedy," and the phrase "tool of the interests."

Gov. Connally, understandably, believes that the Manchester book was not

objective and that he has a responsibility to history to record events as he recalls them. In one passage, for instance, Manchester blames Connally for the selection of the Trade Mart as the site of the President's speech — the crucial decision in determining that the parade route would pass beneath the window of the Texas Book Depository, where Oswald worked. Connally's book will counter that the President's own advance men preferred the Trade Mart and he merely went along with their choice.

In another disputed passage, Manchester recounts what is apparently Jacqueline Kennedy's version of the tragedy, saying Connally "fills his lungs and screams again and screams again and screams again." Neither Gov. Connally nor his wife Nellie can recall the Governor making a sound after he was wounded.

Actually, Manchester's book probably reflects the deep-rooted resentment against Connally held by Robert Kennedy and a number of the late President's associates since the 1960 campaign, when as Lyndon Johnson's presidential campaign manager Connally was a major Kennedy political foe.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY subsequently appointed Connally secretary of the Navy, upon the recommendations of Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara and then-Vice President Johnson. But Robert Kennedy objected so strongly to including Connally in the administration that the President forced Connally to pay a call upon his younger brother to bury the hatchet before he would announce Connally's appointment.