

For a short while after President Kennedy's assassination in Dallas, there was fear of a plot to kill others in line for the Presidency.

That was why, it is now revealed, news of Mr. Kennedy's death was momentarily held up, until Lyndon Johnson, then Vice President, was safely away from the hospital where Mr. Kennedy died.

This sidelight on the tragedy was revealed by Malcolm Kilduff, Assistant White House Press Secretary, who was on the scene. In a television interview with Westinghouse Broadcasting Company, he quoted Mr. Johnson as saying:

"We don't know whether this is a worldwide conspiracy, whether they are after me as well as they were after President Kennedy, or whether they are after Speaker McCormack, or Senator Hayden. Representative John W. McCormack and Senator Carl Hayden are next in line to the Presidency after Mr. Johnson.

Mr. Kilduff asked Mr. Johnson if he should release to the press the news that Mr. Kennedy was dead.

"No," he said Johnson told him. "I think we had better wait for a few minutes....I think I had better get out of here and get back to the plane before you announce it."

The death announcement was made as soon as Mr. Johnson was escorted away from the hospital.

There is historical precedent for Mr. Johnson's suspicion. One the night that President Lincoln was killed, other plotters wounded Secretary of State William Seward in an attempt to kill him.

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