



The Heartache While Making Transition to a New President

Pierre Salinger served John F. Kennedy as press secretary from the early days of the Democratic primaries through the Presidential years. Salinger's book, "With Kennedy," has become a best seller. This is the conclusion of an 18-part serialization in The Examiner.

afterward he would comment to me that he drank from it every morning.

One day, shortly after the death of President Kennedy, I received a call from a high official of the Soviet Embassy in Washington. It was urgent, he said, that we have lunch that day.

When we sat down at the table, he came right to the point.

"The Chairman (Khrushchev) has asked me to see you. He knows you and he trusts you, and he would like your estimate of the

new President of the United States.

I was amazed by the audacity of the request! But I think I successfully masked my amazement as I told the Russian that I had every confidence that President Johnson was as interested in peace and good relations with the Soviet Union as President Kennedy had been.

The Russian thanked me profusely for this information and the luncheon went on to other subjects including a report of how Chairman Khrushchev had broken down and wept when he heard of the death of President Kennedy. "He just wandered around his office for several days, like he was in a daze," he told me.

One of the first trips I took with the new President was to the LBJ ranch shortly before Christmas in 1963 when he was host German Chancellor wig Erhard. He took view of my clothes and come over mio to out"