
6. Presidential Library Materials

a. William Manchester interviews

There has been considerable public interest in the William Manchester papers relating to his work on his book, *The Death of a President*, most of which is stored at the JFK Library on a deposit agreement. Of particular historical value are the extensive personal interviews he conducted in the aftermath of the President's death, which captured and recorded the early recollections and reactions of people closest to President Kennedy and to events surrounding his assassination. Beginning in early 1995, The Review Board made repeated attempts to gain access to Manchester's papers at the Kennedy Library for examination purposes. Finally in June, 1998 Manchester agreed to let a Review Board staff member review his material on the premises of the Kennedy Library.

The Manchester interviews offer a unique, personal perspective on Kennedy and the assassination. Although Manchester recorded some of his

interviews on tape, the recordings were not available at the Library. Only the written notes and/or transcripts of his interviews were held in this collection. Furthermore, not all of the interviews that Manchester referenced in *The Death of a President* could be accounted for in the notebooks and transcripts he deposited in the custody of the JFK Library. The Review Board regards these interviews to be relevant to the assassination and is continuing its efforts to convince William Manchester to open them to the public.

b. JBK tapes at the JFK and LBJ Libraries

There are six conversations between Mrs. Kennedy and President Johnson within the collection of presidential recordings at the LBJ Library. The Review Board has worked consistently with the LBJ Library to secure their release. The LBJ Library was concerned about donor restrictions associated with the release of these tapes as Lady Bird Johnson was highly protective of Mrs. Kennedy Onassis's privacy. Finally, in March 1998 a decision was made by the LBJ Library to open these conversations with the condition that they be opened along with the next scheduled release of President Johnson's recordings. The Review Board understands that these

tapes will be released on September 18, 1998.

JBK tapes and transcripts of the Manchester interviews The tapes and transcripts of William Manchester's interviews of Robert F. Kennedy and Jacqueline B. Kennedy are subject to a 1967 agreement which states that they are not to a courto be opened for 100 years; 2067. The Review Board has pursued this matter with the JFK Library, William Manchester

c. RFK tapes from the JFK Library. In conjunction with the effort to seek permission f
