

L.T., SUSTAINING, MONDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1966

(Dallas Townsend, Sub.)

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The White House said today that President Johnson is determined NOT to become involved in the controversy over William Manchesters' book -- "The Death of A President" -- and that the Chief Executive has ordered his staff members to keep out of it as well. In a statement issued at Austin, Texas, White House News Secretary George Christian denied published accounts which said the President "differed sharply" with the book's account of events surrounding the assassination of President Kennedy. In its current issue, NEWSWEEK Magazine quoted "sources close to the White House" as saying the President had such views -- but Christian calls these "attributions" inaccurate and untrue." Moreover, Christian adds, President Johnson did NOT talk to NEWSWEEK

about the book and its content.

After making this clear, the President -- with the First Lady -- traveled from the ranch by helicopter to Floresville, Texas -- where they attended the funeral of an old friend -- Sam Fore Jr -- aged seventy-five -- a veteran publisher known as Mr. Democate of South Texas. He helped Mr. Johnson win his first campaign for Congress.

## MANCHESTER

Word of the President's attitude on the Kennedy book came as the author -- William Manchester -- entered Middlesex Hospital in Connecticut -- suffering from pneumonia. His doctor said Manchester -- who's forty-four -- will remain a patient for at least a week. Doctor Erwin Tracy also said the author's illness may have resulted, in part, from the pressures brought on by his legal entanglement with Mrs. Kennedy, who has filed suit to prevent publication of his book. "Manchester has been very depressed," the doctor said. His illness has forced an indefinite postponement of negotiations with Mrs. Kennedy's representatives in New York. A court hearing -- scheduled for tomorrow -- may also be postponed. Up until now, talks have been held with the publisher -- Harper and Row -- in an effort to reach an out-of-court agreement on what portions of the book should be deleted in view of Mrs. Kennedy's objections. Such an agreement has already

been reached with Look Magazine which will publish  
a serialization of the manuscript.

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Tonight -- with her two children -- Mrs. Kennedy  
flew from New York to Antigua, in the British West  
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## VIETNAM

Within only a few minutes after the Christmas truce ended at dawn today, the war in Vietnam was resumed with full fury. American B-Fifty-two bombers -- flying thousands of miles from Guam -- were on their way to targets even before the ceasefire was terminated -- and they dropped tons of bombs on Communist installations only a short distance from Hanoi. An American spokesman said at least twenty-eight Viet Cong have been killed in the renewed fighting. In Saigon, a strike by some five thousand South Vietnamese dock-workers is crippling the port's facilities. The unions are protesting the replacement of Vietnamese civilians with American servicemen at a new dock installation.

## WAR LETTER

Twelve national church leaders in the United States today called for an immediate halt to the American bombing of North Vietnam -- and they urged President Johnson to begin peace moves without any prior commitments by the Viet Cong or the North Vietnamese. In an "open letter" to the President, they strongly criticize the "policies and practices of the United States government and its military forces in the Vietnamese War." Herman Will, Junior -- Associate General Secretary of the Methodist Board of Christian Concern -- made the letter public in behalf of himself and eleven other ministers and rabbis whom he described as national church leaders.

POPE

Thousands of Romans and pilgrims gathered in Saint Peter's Square today and received a blessing from Pope Paul -- the one he gives each December Twenty-Sixth, which is Saint Stephen's Day and a national holiday in Italy. Standing at a window of his apartment in the Vatican Palace, he said that "the church and the world have need of wise and courageous Christians, and today ~~the world~~ <sup>this is our</sup> wish and our benediction." Despite a busy Christmas weekend, the Sixty-Nine-year-old pontiff appeared relaxed and rested. On Christmas Eve, he was in Florence for midnight mass in that flood-ravaged city. And then he returned to Rome by automobile -- sometimes at speeds of up to One Hundred miles an hour -- in time to say Christmas Mass at Saint Peter's Basilica after only a few hours of sleep.



LEAD IN TO TAPE

SOUTH PACIFIC. Lowell Thomas is in Anchorage, Alaska tonight

holding a holiday reunion with Lowell, Junior, and his

family. But he has something to tell us about new

opportunities in a much warmer part of the world --

the South Pacific. Lowell....

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SOUTH PACIFIC

HELLO DALLAS, GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Up here in Alaska from Lowell Jr's home we can look out at the vast Pacific Ocean which as you know extends on south for more than eight thousand miles all the way to the Antarctic. And here's a South Pacific bit of news that has just reached me here in Alaska. Something that perhaps may be of special interest -- to U.S. veterans of World War Two who fought in that South Pacific campaign.

The government of the Solomon Islands -- still a British government there -- invites applications from American farmers who would like to come and farm on Guadalcanal -- of all places. Most of you will remember the bitter fighting that took place on Guadalcanal. Well, the word is that the available land on that island stretches from Lunga Point -- some six miles along

Guadalcanal's north coast and is suitable for almost any kind of crop -- and any kind of farm animals.

Anyone want to move to Guadalcanal?

And by the way on nearby Tonga -- they are about to open a luxury hotel! Complete with native music, dancing girls, and all the better things some of you may remember about the South Pacific.

Life is indeed changing fast around the world of ours even in the South Pacific. Of course up here in Alaska things are booming -- getting ready for the centennial celebration. Solong.

FOLLOW TAPE

MAINLA. Things are also changing fast, Lowell, in another part of the Pacific -- the Philippines. The Mayor of Manila -- Antonio Villegas -- has added cigar and cigarette firms to a list of about Four Thousand American-owned companies that will lose their retail licenses in the city on January First. Villegas had already advised Six American oil companies -- Singer Sewing Machine -- Two banks -- and a book firm that they will be out of the retail business at the end of this year. And unless Villegas changes his mind, ~~business~~ nearly all of Manila's gasoline service stations will be closed down on New Year's Day. He took action after a Manila court ruled that American firms are covered by the Retail Trade Nationalization Act. The decision reversed government reassurances that American businesses would NOT be affected -- because of prior agreements between this country and the Philippines. Some official estimate that about Fifty-Seven Thousand Filipinos will lose their

jobs if all the American-owned firms are closed down.

But Villegas says he will establish a special loan fund for Filipinos who want to buy the American retail outlets.

## ARCHER

Juvenile authorities in Omaha, Nebraska, are holding a fifteen-year-old boy who barricaded himself in his home -- then tried to chase the police away with a bow-and-arrow. The siege began after the boy and his mother engaged in a heated argument, with his mother finally going next door to call the police. She took all the guns in the house with her -- but forgot about the bow and arrows. No tear-gas was used to rout the boy from his home -- but one officer sustained a minor injury when an arrow struck him in the chest.

~~next~~

## EISENHOWER

Former President Eisenhower says our government would work much better if legislators and judges -- including those on the Supreme Court -- served for only limited terms.

In a copyrighted article in Reader's Digest, he also proposes that the terms of office for Congressmen be lengthened from the present two years to four, with a maximum of twelve years of service, Federal judges, he says, should be restricted to terms of twenty years, even though they should be paid for life. The former president plans to leave Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington tomorrow afternoon. He has been recuperating from a gall bladder operation, performed earlier this month.

END ALL

Over the past several years, Charles DeGaulle has alienated the affections of many people, especially in the U.S. and Great Britain. But chances are it would be hard to find a substantial body of disagreement with his latest move. Commencing today, the French government opened an all-out war against unnecessary noise. From now on, any Frenchman who distrubs the peace and quiet of his fellow Frenchmen may be slapped with a fine.

Special targets -- owners of cats and dogs, who let their pets meow and howl at length in the nighttime, thus keeping the neighbors awake.

Also -- sigens and factory whistles signaling the noon hour and change of shifts. The government wants these limited to fifteen seconds in duration.

Transistor radios may only be listened to if the owner has an earphone. And car radios -- only if the car is moving.



END ALL--2

In residential areas -- record players, radios and television sets will have to be turned down after a certain hour. And greatest boon of all -- noisy construction work after dark is prohibited.

Dallas Townsend -- quietly saying Good Night.