

Sorensen Concedes He Softened Kennedy Book

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Theodore C. Sorensen conceded Sunday that he had "softened" his book on the late President John F. Kennedy. But he firmly declined to get involved in the controversy over whether Dean Rusk would have been kept on as Mr. Kennedy's secretary of state.

"Kennedy," the book by Sorensen, special counsel to the late President, will be published today. Excerpts have appeared in a magazine and in newspapers, and Sunday he went on a television program (Meet the Press—NBC) to discuss it.

What he did not care to discuss was the statement by another author, Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr., that Mr. Kennedy planned to drop Rusk as secretary of state after the 1964 Presidential

elections. Schlesinger's book on Mr. Kennedy will be out next month.

Sorensen was asked about the published statement that in the aftermath of controversy over Schlesinger's statement, he had removed a line from his own book which virtually confirmed that Mr. Kennedy planned to drop Rusk.

His reply was that "I see no value" in discussing the whole subject of what was not included in "Kennedy."

He also declined to elaborate on what alterations he had made in the book to "soften" it, except to say he had made changes in the manuscript from the time he started writing. He indicated nothing important was left out, and that he had no intention of writing another book in the future. **END**