

WIDOW DISMAYED BY KENNEDY BOOK

Not 12/11/66
Personal Material in 'Death
of President' Upsets Her

By DOUGLAS ROBINSON

Mrs. John F. Kennedy has expressed dismay to close associates that highly personal recollections of her feelings at the time of the assassination of President Kennedy are included in a forthcoming book.

According to a source close to the Kennedy family, Mrs. Kennedy was upset by the author's use of some personal material obtained in 10 hours of taped interviews with him.

Mrs. Kennedy is said to have felt that it was a "matter not only of politeness but of honor" that the author, William Manchester, should have obtained her permission to use the material before including it in the book.

The publication date of the book, "Death of a President," has been delayed from March to April because of revisions by the author, a spokesman for his publisher said yesterday.

The spokesman, Evan Thomas, vice president of Harper & Row, declined to discuss the nature of the revisions being made in the manuscript. Asked if the Kennedy family had been bringing pressure for changes based on Mrs. Kennedy's dis-

may, he said:

"It's impossible to say as to their motives."

The Kennedy family would

not comment on the matter yesterday.

Although it had been previously reported that the Kennedy family had been concerned over the possible political ramifications of the book, the subject of personal feelings of Mrs. Kennedy was raised yesterday by Peter Lisagor, a reporter writing in The Chicago Daily News.

Mr. Lisagor wrote that the Kennedy family was engaged in a "strange and bitter struggle" to delate material from the book that reflected Mrs. Kennedy's innermost thoughts.

Quoting someone who had read the manuscript, Mr. Lisagor said that Mrs. Kennedy "now regrets having poured out her soul to Manchester as if he were a psychiatrist."

The book project was author-

ized and assisted by the Kennedy family. It was understood that neither Mrs. Kennedy nor Senator Robert F. Kennedy had read the manuscript.

"Death of a President" will be serialized in Look magazine beginning on Jan. 10. The magazine paid a record \$650,000 for rights to the work. The Kennedy family several months ago was said to fear that serialization might result in certain episodes being distorted by being printed out of context.

Gardner Cowles, publisher of Look magazine, said yesterday that he was not aware of any pressure by the Kennedys although he had heard the family was "not too happy."

He said the serialization would begin on schedule. He described the Manchester manuscript as a "fascinating, intimate account that is extraordinarily well-written and should receive a wide readership."

Senator Kennedy, asked for comment at a conference in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn yesterday afternoon, said that "I have nothing to say about that."

A spokesman for Mr. Kennedy said she would have no comment.

Mr. Manchester was reported by his agents, the Harold Matson Company, to be out of the country.

Earlier, it had been reported that there are episodes in the narrative that require delicate and detailed handling. According to one who had read it,

the manuscript discloses that in their last conversation President Kennedy and Vice President Johnson had an argument.

President Kennedy reportedly did not feel that his visit to Texas was necessary to patch up a feud between two Democratic factions in the state. Mr. Johnson is said to have urged the trip because he reportedly felt he had lost much of his political leverage in the state.

In a previous statement, Mr. Manchester has insisted that neither Mrs. Kennedy or Sena-

tor Kennedy has tried to edit the manuscript. He also said he had himself deleted some of the taped material because he felt its publication would be "unwarranted invasion of privacy."

Mr. Manchester is the author of a previous book on President Kennedy, "Portrait of a President," published in 1962. Mrs. Kennedy was said to have chosen him as the author of the account of the assassination because she had admired the biography. FWD

the book were former White House speechwriter Richard Goodwin, John Slegenthaler, editor of the Nashville Tennessean; Edwin Guthman, national editor of the Los Angeles Times, and Mrs. Pamela Timmins, Mrs. Kennedy's press secretary.

Reached at his home in Middletown, Conn., Manchester said he did not think Mrs. Kennedy had read the book. He noted that "without the approval of Robert Kennedy, speaking as a member of the family" it would not have been possible for him to write the book.

"I have confidence in

the book," he said. "I think it will stand on its own. I ask only that people give it a chance."

Look magazine was reported to have paid more than \$650,000 for the serialization rights and to have sold the European rights for nearly \$300,000. The Sunday Times of London paid more than \$100,000 for the rights in Britain and Ireland.

Mrs. Kennedy has retained former federal Judge Simon F. Rifkind to represent her in her legal actions. EAD