

# Fight Mrs. Kennedy Promises Against Manchester Book

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NEW YORK (UPI)—Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy notified her hand-picked historian, William Manchester, and his publishers Wednesday that she will wage a battle in the courts—"as horrible as a trial will be"—to block publication of "Death of the President."

The former First Lady, angered because Manchester did not wait for her approval of the book about her husband's assassination, issued a rare public statement from her Manhattan office accusing him of breaking his contract with her and exploiting her grief.

Informed sources said she was particularly upset because Manchester pictured some of the Kennedy family as regarding President Johnson with disdain and she felt this might have a backlash effect on Sen. Robert F. Kennedy's political career. The New York Democrat, however, has said he will do nothing to prevent the book's publication.

Mrs. Kennedy had a summons

served on Cowles Communications Inc., and Harper & Row Publishers Inc. Tuesday notifying them of imminent court action to block publication of the book April 7 and a serialization beginning in Look Magazine in the Jan. 21 issue. But Cowles Vice President William Atwood said the Look article would be on the newsstands Jan. 10.

A spokesman said Mrs. Kennedy will apply to the State Supreme Court in 48 to 72 hours for a temporary injunction that would hold up publication pending arguments on a permanent injunction.

Mrs. Kennedy planned to go to court to force Manchester and the firms to show cause why they should not be permanently enjoined from publishing the book before she has had a chance to decide on deletions. Originally the book was not to have been published until 1968, giving the Kennedy family

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time to go over it.

"Look magazine, Harper & Row and Mr. William Manchester have repeatedly made clear that only legal action can alter their insistence on publishing at this time . . . A premature account of the events of November, 1963, that is in part both tasteless and distorted," Mrs. Kennedy said.

"As horrible as a trial will be, it now seems clear that my only redress is to ask the court to enforce my rights and postpone publication until the minimum limits of my family's privacy can be protected."

#### Makes Accusations

Mrs. Kennedy accused the author and publishers of disregarding "accepted standards of propriety and good faith, and of violating her wishes and "the dignity and privacy which my children and I have striven with difficulty to retain." She said Manchester exploited "the emotional state in which I recounted my recollections to him early in 1964."

"Its (the book's) inaccurate and unfair references to other individuals in contrast with its generous references to all members of the Kennedy family are perhaps beyond my prevention, but to expose to all the world at this time all the private grief, personal thoughts, and painful reactions which my children and I endured in those terrible days does not seem to me to be essential to any current historical record," she said.

She also accused Cowles and Harper & Row of taking "commercial advantage of his (Manchester's)

like a movie magazine—that is what she objects to."

Both Mrs. Kennedy and the senator spoke to Manchester last summer and asked if he intended to live up to his obligation and "sometimes he said he would," the spokesman said. They asked for the manuscript last fall and "he refused to make it available." The four family representatives saw one version of the manuscript but have not seen the serialization prepared for Look.

"The manuscript was overdone and extremely tasteless," the spokesman said.

#### Four Reviewers

The four who reviewed

failure to keep his word."

"To the author and publishers this book will be just another transient chapter in their work, but my children and I will have to live with it for the rest of our lives," she concluded.

A spokesman for Mrs. Kennedy, who asked that

his name not be used, said Wednesday that former White House press secretary Pierre Salinger recommended Manchester to Sen. Kennedy not long after the 1963 assassination and the author signed a contract with the senator and the President's widow March 26, 1964. He agreed to let them review the completed manuscript and publish only what they approved.

Believing that reading the manuscript would be "too painful", they asked four representatives of the family to review it. They found Manchester had used two long, taped interviews with Mrs. Kennedy—reminiscences of a most intimate and emotional type—in the book although he had assured her there would be no attribution of the material to her, the spokesman said.

"If she had known what was going to happen she obviously wouldn't have talked that way," he said. "There was nothing she would not want to tell her children herself some day but to have it in the book