

# Jackie, Bobby Rift Over Book Hinted

NEW YORK, Dec. 15 (AP)—Conflicting reports circulated today as to whether Sen. Robert F. Kennedy and Mrs. John F. Kennedy stand together in her lawsuit to stop publication of the controversial book about the assassination of her husband.

"There is no conceivable conflict," an aide to the Senator said. "He doesn't oppose the suit."

However, a source closely involved in the battle said, "Our lawyers are getting strong indications that Sen. Kennedy wants to get out and doesn't think it (the suit) was a good idea to begin with."

Former Federal Judge Simon Rifkind, who represents Mrs. Kennedy in the court ac-

tion, said, "I have talked with Sen. Kennedy from time to time. I have the impression that he supports Mrs. Kennedy."

Rifkind said he hopes to file the complaint in the State Supreme Court at least by Saturday and possibly tomorrow.

It is not clear whether Mrs. Kennedy will be called to testify from the witness stand.

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He said the suit is based primarily on the contention that she and Sen. Kennedy, D.N.Y., have not approved publication of the book, "Death of a President," by William Manchester. One clause of a "memorandum of understanding" between Manchester and the Kennedys reads:

"The completed manuscript shall be reviewed by

Mrs. John F. Kennedy and Sen. Robert F. Kennedy and the text shall not be published unless and until approved by them."

Therefore, Rifkind said, it will not be necessary in the lawsuit to bring out the passages of the book which Mrs. Kennedy says are "tasteless and distorted" and constitute an invasion of her privacy.

A high-ranking member of the Kennedy Administration said he has read Manchester's book and that he considers "it contains a number of invasions of Mrs. Kennedy's privacy."

Manchester recorded on tape two long interviews with her. The former official said, "It's clear that Manchester took the stuff from the tape recorder when Mrs. Kennedy was not in control of her emotions."

"Also, the book presents a rather unfortunate picture of President Johnson."

Meanwhile, the New York Post quoted Mrs. William Manchester as saying the author would issue a statement later.

A source in the publishing world said "Manchester has prepared a complete statement, telling absolutely everything in complete detail and intends to issue it today. But the lawyers have told him not to, to hold it in re-

serve."

In related developments, The Yale Daily News quoted publisher Bennett Cerf as saying he read the book, and

suggested to Senator Kennedy that he rebut Mr. Manchester in a magazine article.

Mrs. Kennedy is said to regret having made a confidant of Mr. Manchester. Mr. Manchester, in turn, was described by a friend as "bewildered and caught in the middle of an unpleasant situation."

Last February Mr. Manchester told a friend that writing the book had been "sheer agony" because he had been forced to relive the time of the assassination. He said he had regarded the book as a "special trust."

Harper & Row had scheduled publication of "Death of a President" in March but announced over the weekend that it was delaying it until April because of revisions by the author.

is recounting one of the episodes in it. The student newspaper said Cerf addressed an audience at Yale's Pierson College last night.

The passage in the book covers an event at Love Airfield in Dallas, Tex., shortly after the assassination of President Kennedy.

The student newspaper quoted Cerf that Mrs. Kennedy and the late President's aides remained at the hospital in Dallas while then Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson and his entourage went to the airfield. Two airplanes, the presidential and vice presidential planes were parked there. The newspaper quoted Cerf as saying:

"The airplanes were identical in construction and furnishing... the Johnson party reached the airfield first and, knowing President Kennedy was dead, boarded the presidential jet. When the Kennedys returned to the airfield with the coffin and discovered that the presidential plane was already occupied, they were shocked and infuriated."

Cerf, chairman of the board of Random House, said in New York today, "I was under the impression I was talking off the record." He confirmed that he had made

his remarks and said he considered Manchester's work "a wonderful book."

The Yale Daily News also quoted Cerf as saying the book relates how Johnson telephoned the then Atty. Gen. Robert F. Kennedy from Texas, asking Kennedy's advice whether he should be sworn in as chief executive in Dallas or in Washington.

Cerf was quoted as saying that Kennedy now denies he received such a call.

A Kennedy aide said today, "he doesn't deny that he received that call. The incident is described at length in the book and the Senator does not deny receiving the telephone call."

● In London, the publishers of Manchester's book said they were awaiting the outcome of legal moves to stop its publication. The Sunday Times which bought the serial rights also is waiting.

Look Magazine has set publication of the first serialized article for Jan. 10. Harper & Row, book publishers, scheduled it for April 7. William Attwood, editor-in-chief of Look said, "The presses are rolling. They have been rolling for days."

● Rifkind said the "varieties of relief" that may be requested on Mrs. Kennedy's behalf in the lawsuit might include damages. Basically, he said the complaint will ask for a temporary injunction to stop publication of

the book. He said it might include also "a declaration of the rights of the parties." The exact forms of relief to be requested have not been decided. "I just haven't gotten that far yet," Rifkind said. *FAD*