

Mrs. Kennedy's Statement

Following is the text of the statement by Mrs. John F. Kennedy on her suit to stop the publication of "Death of a President":

Look Magazine, Harper & Row and Mr. William Manchester have repeatedly made clear that only legal action can alter their insistence upon publishing at this time — without regard to accepted standards of propriety and good faith, and in specific violation of my wishes, my contract with Mr. Manchester and the dignity and privacy my children and I have striven with difficulty to retain — a premature account of the events of November, 1963, that is in part both tasteless and distorted.

Its 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 reac-

tions my children and I endured in those terrible days does not seem to me to be essential to any current historical record.

I am shocked that Mr. Manchester would exploit the emotional state in which I recounted my recollections to him early in 1964, and I'm equally shocked that reputable publishers would take commercial advantage of his failure to keep his word. To the author and publishers this book will only be another transient chapter in their works, but my children and I will have to live with it for the rest of our lives.

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