

## Bennett Cerf Quoted on New Kennedy Book

Reportedly Says That Manchester Tells of  
Some 'Unbelievable Things' After Slaying

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP)—Bennett Cerf, publisher and television personality, was quoted Thursday as saying he read an unedited manuscript of a controversial book on the death of President John F. Kennedy and that it described some "unbelievable things that happened after the assassination."

The Yale Daily News, Yale student newspaper, said Cerf told a banquet audience at Yale's Pierson College Wednesday night that the unedited manuscript of William Manchester's "Death of a President" described an incident involving the Presidential plane at Love Field in Texas after the assassination.

The student newspaper quoted Cerf, chairman of the board of Random House, as saying the manuscript depicted the Kennedy people as stunned, remaining at the hospital while Lyndon B. Johnson and a small entourage went to Love Field, where both the Presidential and Vice Presidential planes were parked.

### Cerf's Remarks

The account of Cerf's remarks continued:

"The airplanes were identical in construction and furnishing, he (Cerf) said, except that the Presidential plane carried a 'football,' a bag containing all the crucial information about what was to be done in case of nuclear attack.

"According to Mr. Cerf's narration of Manchester's book, the Johnson party reached the airfield first, and, knowing that President Kennedy was dead, boarded the Presidential jet. When the Kennedys returned to the airport with the coffin and discovered that the Presidential plane was already occupied, they were shocked and infuriated, said Mr. Cerf."

Cerf, reached in New York, confirmed that he

had made the remarks, but said, "I was under the impression I was talking off the record."

He said he considered it a "wonderful book" and believes that it will influence history.

### Book Publisher

Cerf declined to elaborate further on the talk. "This is not our book," he said. "And I'm interested in it only as an American citizen and as a publisher who is concerned with books."

Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy, the former President's widow, said Wednesday she plans legal action to prevent publication of the book. Mrs. Kennedy, charging that some parts of it are "tasteless and distorted," said the author did not live up to a pledge to permit the Kennedy family to edit the manuscript.

Mrs. Kennedy's office said the former First Lady would have no comment on Cerf's account.

Former Federal Judge Simon Rifkind, who represents Mrs. Kennedy in the court action, said he hopes to file the complaint in the State Supreme Court at least by Saturday and possibly today.

### Testimony Uncertain

It is not clear whether Mrs. Kennedy will be called to testify.

Rifkind said the suit is based primarily on the contention that she and Sen. Robert F. Kennedy have not approved publication of the book. 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 believes constitute an invasion of her privacy. **END**

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