

# Author Said to Reject 'More Clean Reading' in Book

William Manchester, according to good authority, is convinced he cannot make any more changes in his book on the assassination of President Kennedy without betraying his understanding of history and his interpretation of the late President's attitude toward important events.

He is convinced, according to sources close to him, that in his book "Death of a President" he has already made all the changes and deletions required of his contractual and ethical obligations to the Kennedy family.

Manchester does not think "Death of a President" is prejudicial to President Johnson. It has been reported that Senator Robert Kennedy is concerned lest the book be construed as a display of antipathy by him toward President Johnson.

**Changes Made**

The 44-year-old writer has already acceded to a number of changes and deletions requested by the family in the 300,000-word book and the four-part serialization of 80,000 words scheduled to begin in Look magazine Jan. 10.

Despite the continuing objections by the President's widow and by Senator Robert F. Kennedy, which have resulted in the opening of court action to restrain publication, Mr. Manchester is said to bear no ill will toward the family but is reported to be hostile toward two of the Kennedy advisers on the project, Richard Goodwin and Theodore C. Sorensen.

The writer, according to close friends, is convinced that Senator Kennedy is upset at the opposition to the book by Mrs.

Kennedy but is unable to control her.

Mr. Manchester is also said to believe that Mrs. Kennedy is inclined to exaggerate her contribution to the book for which Look has paid \$665,000 for serial rights.

### Material Is Censored

The writer had 10 hours of taped interviews with Mrs. Kennedy. Mr. Manchester censored much of this material voluntarily as "an unwarranted invasion of privacy," to be turned over to the John F. Kennedy Memorial Library in Cambridge, Mass.

According to persons close to the author, the controversy about the book

editorial vice president Harper & Row.

Mr. Manchester was said to have expressed the opinion that if all these suggestions followed, the delegations of Look serials would run 75 per cent of the text of magazine excerpts would come unusable.

Mrs. Kennedy's suggestions, according to persons in the know, were confined mainly with phrasing, rather than with deletions. One suggestion, according to this source, dealt with the period after the death of her husband when exhausted and ill she

and went to the rear of the plane, where there was a bed.

There, according to persons who have read this portion of the manuscript, President Johnson was telephoning for advice about how and when to be sworn in as the new President.

The manuscript by Mr. Manchester was reported to have said that President Johnson was "sprawling" on the bed. Mrs. Kennedy was said to have suggested that the word be changed to "reclining."

Mr. Manchester, an ex-marine who was wounded in the invasion of Okinawa, was selected by the Kennedy family for this book as a result of a previous book, "Portrait of a President," a study of President Kennedy. Some critics thought it too adulatory, but Mrs. Kennedy recalled that her husband had praised the prose style.

Other books by Mr. Manchester were "Disturber of the Peace, the life of H. L. Mencken," "The City of Anger," a novel about the policy racket in Baltimore; "Sword the Lion," Cass Canfield, head of Harper & Row, and Evan Thomas, feller Family Portrait. **END**