

DECISIONS TRACED TO MRS. KENNEDY

She Made Up Her Own Mind
on Deletions, Friend Says

By MARTIN ARNOLD

Mrs. John F. Kennedy decided for herself what paragraphs she wanted deleted from the manuscript of "The Death of a President," one of her close friends and advisers said yesterday.

Richard N. Goodwin, a former aide to Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, said in an interview: "I read Mrs. Kennedy every passage in the book of a personal nature or gave her a detailed summary of those passages. She then made the decision on what she thought was too personal, of no historical importance, and should not be included in the book. Publishers' statements to the contrary, Mrs. Kennedy knew precisely what she was objecting to in the book."

Mrs. Kennedy filed suit in State Supreme Court last Friday to prevent the publication of the book by Harper & Row, Publishers, Inc., and its four-part serialization in Look.

Mr. Goodwin has been acting as one of Mrs. Kennedy's advisers during the negotiations to settle the suit out of court.

She said in the suit that much of the information she had given William Manchester, author of the book, was to be used as background material in helping him to gain a perspective for the book, but that it was not to be used in the book without her permission because it was not historical, merely personal.

Letter Poses Mystery

An example of the type of material she objected to was a letter she wrote her husband from Greece the summer before he was assassinated on Nov. 22, 1963.

"Mrs. Kennedy never gave Manchester that letter or even showed it to him," Mr. Goodwin said. "Somebody else gave it to him, and to this day we don't know who."

Several statements from the publisher, Look magazine and Mr. Manchester had implied that if Mrs. Kennedy had read the manuscript the lawsuit might not have been filed.

On Monday, Cass Canfield, chairman of the executive committee of Harper & Row, said in a statement, for example, that "understandably, the members of the Kennedy family were unwilling to read the man-

uscript themselves, and hence they designated representatives to do this for them. Had they read it themselves, the present situation might have been avoided."

It was in answer to this implication that Mr. Goodwin made his remarks. He said that it made little difference whether Mrs. Kennedy had read the entire manuscript or parts of it or had had someone else read them to her—that she was as knowledgeable about the parts she wanted deleted as anyone else in the case.

Mr. Goodwin said that in contrast to the details that had been given to Mrs. Kennedy Senator Robert F. Kennedy had been "only made aware of what was in the Manchester book."

Mr. Goodwin, the 35-year-old former Presidential aide, has been given to Mrs. Kennedy, and a facile writer. He is considered brilliant by those who know him and controversial by those who know of him.

'He's an Insider'

His relationship with President Kennedy was once described this way: "He's an insider. He's someone the President turns to naturally, and with a sense of intimacy."

He first went to work for John F. Kennedy in 1959 during Mr. Kennedy's campaign for the Presidency. In the Kennedy Administration he undertook a number of assignments for the President, and, after the assassination, became a speech writer and special assistant to President Johnson.

He left the White House in September, 1965, to accept a

fellowship at the Center for Advanced Studies at Wesleyan University, Middletown, Conn., but he has retained close ties with Senator Robert Kennedy and Mrs. Kennedy, who is said to have a particular trust in his judgment.

Yesterday, he gave a loose

sequence of the events that had led to his involvement in the Manchester book situation.

He said that last summer Pamela Turnure, Mrs. Kennedy's news secretary, read the completed Manchester manuscript and told Mrs. Kennedy that she thought the book would "raise problems."

Late in the summer, he said, Mrs. Kennedy asked him to read the manuscript and excerpt for her everything in it that was of a personal nature.

Yesterday, another source close to the Kennedy family, who declined to have his name used, said that the "fact was that everybody in the Kennedy family was against a lawsuit."

"Nobody wanted it, and up to the end of last week everybody assumed the dispute could be settled without a suit," this source said.

He said members of the Kennedy family were upset also about the references to President Johnson in the book, that they felt that Mr. Manchester had treated the President in an unfair manner and that once the book was published it might have an adverse effect on Robert Kennedy's political future.

"The family decided that they would have to let that go," he said. "They couldn't put Jackie through a lawsuit just for the sake of somebody's political career."

"At one point late last week, Mrs. Kennedy said, 'the only way I can protect my privacy is to sue,' and Bob said, 'That's right,' and that was the final decision to file."