

# Mrs. Kennedy and Magazine Settle Dispute Over Book

## Both Sides Claim Victory Following Six-Hour Session

AT-12-22/66  
BY RICHARD DOUGHERTY

Times Staff Writer

NEW YORK—The bitter dispute between Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy and Look magazine over "The Death of a President" was settled Wednesday night.

However, it was evident that some bitterness remained as representatives of both sides in the controversy over the William Manchester book made tacit claims of victory.

William Atwood, editor-in-chief of Cowles Communications, publishers of Look, was first to announce the accord, stating that Mrs. Kennedy "has today withdrawn her objection to the serialization of portions of the book."

Atwood added pointedly that the changes insisted upon by the former First Lady "in no way affected the historical accuracy and completeness" of those parts of the book which are to appear in the magazine. The magazine serialization is scheduled to start with the Jan. 10 issue and continue in four installments.

### 'No Censorship of History'

Atwood also observed that he was "glad this dispute is behind us and that there has been no censorship of history."

Atwood's announcement, made at the end of a six-hour marathon negotiating session with representatives of the widow of President John F. Kennedy, was immediately followed by a Kennedy statement that gave a different interpretation to

the settlement.

Mrs. Kennedy's lawyer, Simon H. Rifkind, put the emphasis on Look's having "agreed to remove or modify paragraphs about Mrs. Kennedy's personal life" and about her children.

It was because of this agreement, Rifkind said, that Mrs. Kennedy had consented to withdraw her lawsuit against the magazine—a suit aimed at preventing publication of those parts of the Manchester work which she had found objectionable both for reasons of taste and personal privacy.

### Lawsuit Withdrawn

Rifkind's statement continued: "These paragraphs were the sole reasons for the initiation of her legal action. Since every passage of a personal nature under contention for several months was either deleted by Look or changed to her satisfaction, she has withdrawn her suit."

"No material of historical significance has been altered nor has the historical record been impaired in the slightest by the modifications and deletions."

Rifkind added that neither Mrs. Kennedy nor Sen. Robert F. Kennedy (D-N.Y.), in agreeing to withdraw the suit, desired it to be thought that they thereby have "in any way approved or endorsed the material in the Look articles."

Author Manchester and the magazine publishers "have assumed complete and sole responsibility in that

regard, Rifkind said.

His statement concluded with a comment from Mrs. Kennedy herself which seemed to be aimed at disapproving what are reported to be unkind references to President Johnson in "The Death of a President."

Mrs. Kennedy's comment was:

"I have been told there are historical inaccuracies and unfair references in

this book. That they have been written is unfortunate. However, it was clear before bringing this suit that historical judgments, even if inaccurate, could not properly be suppressed by a court of law. In time history will deal fairly and justly with this period."

### 1,600 Words Out

Atwood emphasized in his statement that, contrary to some reports, only about 1,600 words had been deleted or otherwise affected in meeting Mrs. Kennedy's demands. The Look serialization will come to some 80,000 words.

The entire book, to be brought out in April by Harper & Row, runs to some 300,000 words—and already promises to be a best seller of historic proportions.

Rifkind said that Mrs. Kennedy's suits against Harper & Row and Manchester remain in effect. However, the defendants were given an extra day—from today until Friday—to file legal answers to Mrs. Kennedy's petition for an injunction against them.

It is understood the Kennedy family is confident it can settle its differences quickly with the publishing house.

Cass Canfield, head of Harper & Row, is known to be more than willing to meet the wishes of the 37-year-old widow of the President.

Manchester, who was also not represented or involved in the negotiations with Look, remains a question mark. He fought

the changes demanded by Mrs. Kennedy vigorously and the ill feeling between him and the Kennedys has become profound.

Neither Mrs. Kennedy nor Sen. Kennedy personally participated in the Look negotiations, but aides kept them informed of progress by telephone. Mrs. Kennedy is in New York. The senator is spending the holidays in Sun Valley with his family.

Representing the Kennedys in the discussions were Richard Goodwin, former White House speech writer and a friend of the family, and John Siegenthaler, another friend and editor of the Nashville Tennessean.

#### Patience Applied

Sources close to the Kennedys said Goodwin and Siegenthaler's main tactic was just plain patience.

They described the negotiating session which lasted over several days at Look's Madison Ave. headquarters and at the Rifkind law firm as consisting of a good deal of "give and take."

"It became a question of the gentlest way of removing objectionable material," these sources said. "They tried to make deletions so they didn't interrupt the flow of the narrative."

The talks were described as "fairly friendly." But sources said the negotiators had to wait at times in order to resolve issues.

The negotiators made a list of the passages Mrs.

Kennedy found painful. About 12 passages existed in the Look installments. "Privacy of the children was very important," these sources said.

A good part of Wednesday's final negotiations was spent settling questions of foreign rights and the methods used in advertising and promotion of the Look series. One question was simply mechanics: not to have in any advertising the passages deleted in the manuscript. Sources said the installments contained no objectionable photographs. And, they added, none of the deletions involved President Johnson or his family.

Both Rifkind and Atwood made their com-

ments to some 70 newsmen in a packed conference room at Rifkind's firm. The huge turnout provided a measure of the public interest which has been generated over what must go down as one of the bitterest, most dramatic and, to many, saddest chapters in the history of American publishing. Atwood, who declined to answer reporters' ques-

tions at the close of his statement, shed no light on the fate of those copies of Look which are already off the presses in preparation for January distribution. Presumably these copies, said to number in the hundreds of thousands, will not now be distributed and revised issues will take their place.

The magazine paid a whopping \$663,000 for the

serial rights to "The Death of a President," almost half of which is reported to have been recovered by resale of these rights to European publications. Harper & Row plan a first printing of 100,000 copies. The Book of the Month Club has made the book its choice for April and Dell Publishing Co. has made an offer of a million dollars for the paperback

rights.

Mrs. Kennedy selected Manchester to write the assassination story under a 1964 agreement that gave her and Sen. Kenne-

dy the right to review and approve the manuscript before publication. This accord served as

The basis for Mrs. Kennedy's breach-of-contract suit in the New York State Supreme Court.