

AUTHOR'S ILLNESS PRODUCES DELAY IN NEGOTIATIONS

NEW YORK (AP)—The illness of author William Manchester Monday created an unexpected hiatus in negotiations over publication of his controversial book "The Death of a President."

Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy went with her children to the West Indies with near assurance that she has succeeded in keeping personal parts of the book from publication.

Mrs. Kennedy's attorney, former Judge Simon H. Rifkind, had planned to meet Monday with representatives of Harper & Row, publishers of the book about the events surrounding the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

But shortly before the meeting was to take place, a spokesman for Rifkind said the meeting had been

anceled — because of Manchester's illness.

Manchester and Harper & Row had been ordered to appear in Manhattan Supreme Court today to show cause why they should not be enjoined from publishing the book.

But Justice Saul Streit, who granted Mrs. Kennedy the show cause order Dec. 16, had said previously he would further postpone the action if the negotiations were not successful by today.

The spokesman in Rifkind's office said no further meetings have been scheduled between attorneys in the dispute today and it is likely the attorneys will appear in court to ask for a postponement.

A source close to the Kennedy family said negotiations "definitely had made progress and the meetings up until Christmas Eve were friendly."

The author was put on the critical list early Monday morning at Middlesex

Memorial Hospital after he was taken there from his Middletown (Conn.) home running a high fever.

Later Monday his family doctor said he was suffering from a "slight case of pneumonia" but his temperature was normal after treatment with antibiotics.

However, Manchester is expected to remain on the critical list pending further diagnosis, which could take several days. His doctor said Manchester had been "confused and depressed" recently, but declined to speculate on the reason.

The negotiations with Harper & Row followed an agreement between representatives of Mrs. Kennedy and Look magazine, which plans to serialize excerpts from the book beginning in its issue to be released Jan. 10.

That settlement was reached after Look agreed to delete passages involving the personal activities and feelings of Mrs. Kennedy and her children. *e. m.*