

Accord Seen Near On Kennedy Book

Confirm Talks Are Going On

Full text of author William Manchester's statement on Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy's suit to block publication of "The Death of a President" on Page 11.

By CY EGAN

World Journal Tribune Staff

Efforts are underway to settle the legal battle over publication of William Manchester's controversial book "The Death of a President" out of court, publishing spokesmen revealed today.

"There are continuing efforts to patch things up," declared an official of Harper & Row, Inc., which is scheduled to bring out a 300,000-word hard-cover edition on April 7.

"Every effort will be made to work things out."

Asked if the talks were aimed at reaching an understanding on separation of deeply personal matter, which Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy is seeking to keep out of the book, from material that is

considered history, the publisher representative said:

"I think that is pretty accurate. There are always the author's rights and her (Mrs. Kennedy's) rights."

PEACE TALKS

A spokesman for Look magazine, which is to start an 80,000-word, four-part serialization of the book in its Jan. 10 issue, confirmed that peace talks are going on.

"Discussions between the lawyers representing the two sides in the dispute are continuing," he said. "They are not necessarily meetings per se. There's a telephone, you know."

The statements from the publishers came after former Federal Judge Simon H. Rifkind, Mrs. Kennedy's lawyer, maintained that both sides were standing firm in the dispute and that no out-of-court settlement was in sight.

Rifkind would only say that an agreement was "conceivable" before the Dec. 27 Supreme Court hearing on Mrs. Kennedy's application for a temporary injunction to block publication of the book.

"I am expecting to be served

Turn to Page 11

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Kennedy Book Accord Seen

Continued from Page One

with answering papers by the defendants on Dec. 22," he said. "We will reply promptly. We are preparing our briefs and we expect to be in court on Dec. 27 to argue our motion for a temporary injunction."

The attorney said it was "possible" that the court action against the magazine serialization would be handled separately from the action against the book because the serialization deadline is near.

"It's possible, but nobody has mentioned it yet," he said.

Rifkind also said that Mrs. Kennedy has not yet read any of the magazine installments, "but some passages were the subject of discussion with her" at a three-hour conference on Saturday.

Attending the conference were Rifkind, Richard N. Goodwin, Mrs. Kennedy's principal adviser; William Attwood, editor-in-chief of Look, and David W. Peck, an attorney for Cowles Publications, which publishes Look. Peck reportedly outlined a possible compromise solution to the dispute.

TEDDY SPEAKS OUT

As the efforts at compromise progressed, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., brother of the late President, was quoted as charging that Manchester "now intends to go ahead in violation of the word of his agreement, the spirit of his arrangements and despite the pain he knows it will give Mrs. Kennedy."

Sen. Robert F. Kennedy could not be reached immediately for his comment on Manchester's first public statement in the dispute since Mrs. Kennedy filed her court application last Friday. He is vacationing with his family at Sun Valley, Idaho.

Manchester denied that he had "broken faith" or taken advantage of Mrs. Kennedy's confidence in recording her "words and emotions." He claimed he had the family's authorization for publication of the book in early 1967.

"John Kennedy was my President," Manchester said.



UPI Photo

JACQUELINE KENNEDY

ceded by serialization in Look

In Mrs. Kennedy's suit, no publication is made of possible early 1967. Sen. Kennedy, in an accompany affidavit, refers to a July 28 "no obstacle" telegram he sent and a telephone conversation he had with Manchester on July 29 in which Kennedy said the author agreed "nothing would be published which did not have the approval of Mrs. Kennedy and myself."

RIFKIND SPEAKS

Commenting on Manchester's statement, Rifkind said:

"I don't know how Mr. Manchester escapes from the fact that he made a promise and now he has not lived up to his part of the bargain.

"I don't know about literary integrity nor the matter of history—they don't concern me at the moment—but I believe strongly in a man keeping his word, particularly when it is in a written memorandum of understanding."

An 11-point memorandum signed by Manchester and Robert Kennedy on March 26, 1964, is involved in the issue as to whether the defendants in the suit have publishing rights.

Key points in the memorandum are that the completed manuscript shall be reviewed by Mrs. Kennedy and Robert Kennedy and that the book may not be published before Nov. 22, 1968, unless Mrs. Kennedy designates a prior date.

"To suggest that I would dishonor his memory or my association with him is both cruel and unjust."

The 44-year-old author's statement referred to information he received from "a member of the Kennedy family" on July 29, 1966, that the family would place "no obstacle in the way of publication."

The only other reference in the statement was a sentence that "in the summer of 1966, authorization was given by the family for publication of the book in early 1967, to be pre-magazine."