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## "All the News That's Fit to Print"

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# HARPER'S DEFENSE OF BOOK EVOKES KENNEDY RETORT

**Publisher Says People Have  
'Right to Know the Facts'  
of Assassination Story**

## SENATOR IN A REBUTTAL

**Says Company and Look  
Forced Suit by Refusing to  
Let Family Check Script**

*Canfield text and Kennedy  
family reply, Page 35.*

By JOHN CORRY

Harper & Row, Publishers, Inc., defended yesterday its decision to publish "The Death of a President," and said that the people had a "right to know the facts of the awesome tragedy"—the assassination of President Kennedy.

Cass Canfield, the chairman of the executive committee of Harper & Row, softly criticized the Kennedy family by suggesting that, if any of them had read the book rather than leaving it to their representatives to do so, "the present situation might have been avoided."

He also said that he joined

the author, William Manchester, "in defending the book's right to live."

A spokesman for the Kennedy family, however, said last night that "no amount of rhetoric" could alter the value of the issue—whether Mr. Manchester and his publisher broke a written agreement.

In turn, Senator Robert F. Kennedy said in Sun Valley, Idaho, that Look magazine and Harper & Row had "pushed us into the suit" because they had refused to allow representatives of the Kennedy family to see "The Death of a President" until Mrs. John F. Kennedy filed a suit to prevent its publication last Friday.

### Contract Violation Larger

Mrs. Kennedy based her suit on the contention that William Manchester, the author of the book, had violated his contract with Senator Kennedy. The contract said the book must not be published before Nov. 22, 1963, and that it must be approved by Mrs. Kennedy and Senator Kennedy.

In return, the Kennedys promised that they would cooperate with no other authors on an account of the assassination.

There have been persistent reports that Look magazine, which wants to begin a four-part, 80,000-word serialization of the book in the issue on sale Jan. 10, Harper & Row, and the Kennedy family are eager to avoid a court battle.

Nevertheless, Simon H. Rifkind, the attorney for Mrs. Kennedy, said yesterday that he knew "nothing about any efforts at a settlement."

However, a source close to the participants in the suit said

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## PUBLISHER BACKS DECISION TO PRINT

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that "contacts, informal contacts" were being made on both sides.

Mr. Canfield made his statement at the Overseas Press Club, 54 West 40th Street before about 40 reporters. Afterward he declined to answer any questions either about the statement or the book.

More

He said that his "experience in connection with 'The Death of a President' has been the most trying and distressing one in a 40-year publishing career."

"The principals involved in this dispute are all people for whom I have such deep regard and admiration," he said, adding that the book "is a moving, sincere and outstanding piece of writing."

Mr. Canfield said Mr. Manchester had been "subject to many repeated pressures for many months" because of the book, and that he himself felt "very badly" that Mrs. Kennedy was disturbed.

### Fines Privilege Abused

Mrs. Kennedy filed the suit, she said, because Mr. Manchester had abused her confidence by using her personal recollections "without regard to accepted standards of propriety and good faith."

The suit is to be heard on Dec. 27 before Saul S. Strett, the ranking justice of the State Supreme Court. If Mrs. Kennedy is upheld, Look, says, it will not have time to prepare alternate pages and it will be forced to cancel an issue.

Harper & Row, Mr. Canfield said, "was not motivated by profit" when it undertook to publish "The Death of a President."

"On the contrary," he said, "all Harper profits will go to the Kennedy Library except for a small return to Harper's on our first printing."

Mr. Manchester, Mr. Canfield said, "is also making substantial contributions to the library from his earnings on the book." Harper & Row's advance to Mr. Manchester, he said, was \$40,000 "and not the \$675,000 erroneously reported by the press."

Look magazine has paid \$665,000 to serialize the book, which is virtually certain to be a best seller. Look has already received half the \$665,000 back in its sale of its European rights.



The New York Times

**PUBLISHER COMMENTS:**  
Cass Canfield, head of Harper & Row, defending William Manchester's book at news conference yesterday.

Mr. Canfield apparently offered his statement more in sorrow than in anger yesterday. It is known that Harper & Row had not expected Mrs. Kennedy to press her suit, and that Senator Kennedy had been reluctant to see her do so.

The book is said by some persons to present President Johnson in an unfavorable light, in some situations, and to speak of hostility that the Kennedys felt toward him. This, the Senator and his advisers thought, could only increase political tensions between the Kennedys and the Johnsons.

Nonetheless, the Senator is said to feel that a suit was not the appropriate action.

Besides politics, the dispute over the book touches persons who are connected through marriage, friendship and business.

### Was 'Deeply Distressed'

Last week Mr. Canfield said, he was "deeply distressed over the fact that Mrs. Kennedy is upset because I have great respect and admiration for her."

Mrs. Kennedy's sister, Mrs. Stanislas Radziwill, was once married to Michael T. Canfield, the son of Mr. Canfield, who is the grandfather of their son Anthony.

The memorandum of agreement signed by Mr. Manchester and Senator Kennedy stipulates that, "at the request of the Kennedy family, the publisher will be Harper & Row." Mr. Manchester was asked to get a written release from Little, Brown & Co., which was then his publisher.

Evan Thomas, the vice president of Harper & Row, is also an old friend of the Kennedys. He edited "Profiles in Courage," for which John F. Kennedy received a Pulitzer prize in biography in 1957, and he worked on "The Enemy Within," Robert Kennedy's book on the teamsters union.

The Senator, then the United States Attorney General, was helped in writing the book by John Seigenthaler, now editor of The Nashville Tennessean and then an administrative assistant to Mr. Kennedy. Later, Mr. Seigenthaler reviewed "The Death of a President" for the Senator.

During the editing of "The Enemy Within," Mr. Thomas, Mr. Seigenthaler and the Senator became quite close.

William Attwood, editor in chief of Cowles Communications, which publishes Look, has connections, too. In 1960, John Kennedy asked him to join his campaign staff. Later, Mr. Kennedy appointed him, successively, Ambassador to Guinea and Kenya.

Cowles Communications and

Harper & Row are also joined by family ties. John Cowles Jr., a nephew of Gardner Cowles, the chairman of Cowles, is the editor of The Minneapolis Star and Tribune, which owns half of Harper's magazine.

Harper & Row owns the other half. John Cowles Jr. is the president of Harper's and serves on its board with Mr. Canfield, who is also his father-in-law.

Mr. Cowles married the former Jane Sage Fuller Flores, a daughter of Mr. Canfield's second wife.

"The thing is," said a participant in the dispute, "all these people know one another. It's baffling that the thing has gone as far as it has."