

A KENNEDY FRIEND JOINS STERN TALKS

Magazine Will Be Asked to
Revise Its Serialization

By JOHN CORRY

An executive of Cowles Communications and a friend of Mrs. John F. Kennedy will join in asking Stern magazine in Germany today to revise its serialization of "The Death of a President."

William Attwood, the editor in chief of Cowles, flew to Hamburg Wednesday night. William J. vanden Heuvel, who is a political associate of Senator Robert F. Kennedy as well as a friend of Mrs. Kennedy, left here last night.

Mr. vanden Heuvel said that Cowles Communications, which publishes Look, "had the basic legal problem with Stern." Mr. vanden Heuvel will be in Hamburg, he said, "to sit in on the discussions as a representative of Mrs. Kennedy."

Look sold the German serialization rights of "The Death of a President" to Stern for \$72,500. Subsequently Mrs. Kennedy filed a suit to prevent Look from publishing its installment.

The suit was dropped, however, when Look agreed to modify some, but not all, of the passages that Mrs. Kennedy found offensive. It was also understood that Look would see that foreign installments of the serialization conformed to the American version.

Nonetheless, in its first installment, which it published last Monday, Stern included a letter that Mrs. Kennedy had sent to President Kennedy. Look had deleted it.

Mr. vanden Heuvel said he hoped he and Mr. Attwood could "convince the German publishers, who are the only ones in the world who have not agreed to honor their agreement with Look about the text, to honor it."

"I am hopeful," he said, "that this can be done."

So far, Look has sold the serialization rights to "The Death of a President," William Manchester's account of the assassination of President Kennedy, to magazines in 25 countries.

Release Date Questioned

Besides a stipulation that it control the textual matter, Look says, it was also agreed that foreign installments must follow their publication in Look



Burt Glinn—Magnum

IN NEGOTIATIONS: William J. vanden Heuvel, a political associate of Senator Robert F. Kennedy.

by five to seven days. Stern, which published half the installment that appeared in Look and will publish the rest next week, appeared simultaneously with Look.

Further, a Look executive noted, Stern would have appeared before Look if Look had not advanced its publication date from last Tuesday to Monday.

This was done after The Chicago Daily News broke the release date for news stories on the installment and published articles about it last Saturday.

One source in the dispute also objected to Stern's treatment of the installment. He said the German magazine had used pictures of Mrs. Kennedy moments after the assassination. They show her apparently trying to scramble over the rear seat of the Presidential limousine.

Neither Look nor Harper & Row, which wants to publish the Manchester book in the spring, will use photographs of the assassination. To do so, they say, would sensationalize the story.

Although Stern is the only

publication so far to use material that Look had revised, a number of other foreign magazines have copies of the original, unexpurgated Look serialization.

These magazines bought the serialization rights from Look before Mrs. Kennedy filed suit. In turn, they received copies of the installments that Look first intended to use. Subsequent sales of the rights reflected the changes that Look made.

Book Assailed in Texas

Special to The New York Times

AUSTIN, Tex., Jan. 12—Both houses of the Texas Legislature today condemned "The Death of a President" and praised Texas Gov. John B. Connally Jr. of Texas for taking issue with it and promising to write his own story.

Both resolutions said that Governor Connally had resisted commenting on the assassination of President Kennedy, in which the Governor himself was seriously wounded, until the first installment of the William Manchester book appeared in Look magazine.

The House resolution said that the Legislature "pays tribute to Gov. John B. Connally for the forthright manner with which he has conducted himself," while the Senate measure included quotations from the Governor's press statement in which he strongly criticized the book.

The Senate resolution commends Governor Connally "for his decision to break his silence and record the facts surrounding the events . . . so that present day writers and legitimate historians may find them useful in reaching objective judgments."