

Stern Firm on The Book

By LARRY VAN GELDER

World Journal Tribune Staff

West Germany's largest magazine, Der Stern, today published a second uncut installment of William Manchester's "The Death of a President" despite the threat of legal action.

Today's serialization included one of the passages deleted by Look magazine after negotiations with the Kennedy family. Look agreed to the deletion after Mrs. John F. Kennedy filed suit to bar publication.

The passage published by Der Stern but due to be dropped from the next Look

installment was an account of President John F. Kennedy's last night alive. The president and his wife were in a hotel in Fort Worth, Tex., the night before he was assassinated in Dallas.

BREACH OF CONTRACT

William Attwood, editor of Look, has charged that Der Stern is guilty of breach of contract for publishing the first installment prior to publication by Look.

Henry Nannen, chief editor of Der Stern, who refused a plea from Sen. Robert F. Kennedy to conform to the Look version, said, "We have found nothing in the original manuscript that goes beyond the limits of humane consideration towards Mrs. Kennedy. There is no cause for abridging or changing the manuscript."

Nannen has also denied that

Der Stern published its first installment before Look did.

Despite the Kennedy's contention that the material Mrs. Kennedy objects to is personal and would cause her distress if published, Nannen maintains that a close reading of these passages shows them to be full of political implications.

A spokesman for Look, seller of the West German serialization, said the American magazine is not too concerned about this week's material. "It's what Der Stern will publish next week that we want stopped," he said.

DISCUSSED SUIT

Details of Look's threatened suit against Der Stern were discussed yesterday at a meeting in the office of former Federal Judge Simon H. Rifkind, Mrs. Kennedy's attorney.

Meanwhile, a settlement was reported near in negotiations over the hard cover version of the Manchester book, scheduled for publication by Harper and Row on April 7.

However, a hearing on a permanent injunction against publication is on the calendar for Wednesday in Manhattan Supreme Court.



SMILING IN THE RAIN . . . Viewed through the rain-splattered limousine, Mrs. John F. Kennedy and her escort, opera composer Gian-

Carlo Menotti, beam as they are driven from the Ethel Barrymore Theater. They had just attended a performance of "Les Ballets Africains."

World Journal Tribune Photo by Mel Finkelstein