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Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis went on the payroll of Viking Press in New York yesterday (salary unspecifield), but will not try out her office as "consulting editor" until next week.

Mrs. Onassis, who once worked in Washington as "Inquiring Camera Girl" for the old Times Herald before she married John F. Kennedy, will not work every day. She was hired more to come up with ideas and deal with agents for new books.

Thomas H. Guinzburg, president of Viking, says he is "a very old friend" of Mrs. Onassis. He said he has been talking to her about coming to his firm all summer.

Mrs. Onassis, widow of President Kennedy and of Aristotle Onassis, contributed an article to the New Yorker magazine last spring.