

# 'Attempt to emasculate JFK book'

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Monday.

**W**illiam Manchester, author of the controversial book *Death of a President*, says that Richard Goodwin, former White House aide, acting for Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy, "tried to emasculate" extracts of the book printed in *Look* magazine.

"Dick Goodwin was made responsible by Jackie for everything that would be in the manuscript," Manchester asserts. "His editing of the book galleys was fantastic.

"At one point nearly 50 per cent of the third instalment was edited. It would have been unprintable.

"He was editing—largely for political reasons—material about Bobby Kennedy and Johnson.

## Swim pool talk

The experience, says Manchester, taught him "something about the political animal, about people who are betting their futures on another Kennedy administration, who are willing to do anything."

During an autumn swim last year in the pool at Robert Kennedy's home in Virginia, "Bobby told me that Ted Sorensen, a former White House aide, had advised him to file

## King Feisal's visit

King Feisal of Saudi Arabia has accepted an invitation by the Queen to pay a state visit to London on May 9, it was announced from Buckingham Palace today.

suit to stop publication because of his own political future.

"But putting Jackie on the stand would be intolerable, and he himself could only lose politically. So would I consider the personal changes which Goodwin was then making in *Look*."

Manchester explained that political material was vital for the historical record and was not negotiable. Personal changes were "something else."

## 'Commercialisation'

The motives of the Kennedy family towards the book were "impossible to ascertain," Manchester declares.

Mrs. Kennedy was at first "concerned over the sum of money and what she was commercialising."

In July of last year, Manchester says, he received a message from John Seigenthaler, a Tennessee newspaper editor representing Robert Kennedy, which said: "It's OK with Bobby. Go ahead with submission to the magazines."

"The magazine bidding quickly narrowed to *Look* and *Life*. One Saturday I called Bobby on the tennis court at Hyannis Port and said: 'It's *Look*.'

"Gee, that's great," Bobby said. "I'm glad it's *Look* because we have been so nice to the family and Luce (Mr. Henry Luce, publisher of *Life Magazine*) has been such a . . ."

## 'Mushroom cloud'

But the next day when Mrs. Kennedy was told of the arrangement, "a mushroom cloud appeared over Hyannis Port."

"I chartered an aeroplane and flew to Washington and dealt with Bobby and Seigenthaler for three hours. Bobby was so irrational. He was concerned about the money now."

Later, says Manchester, Mrs. Kennedy requested 27 "per-

sonal" changes in the manuscript. "But the first six I encountered in the galleys involved LBJ and had nothing to do with her or her children.

"On December 13 I landed in New York from England and read in the *New York Times* that Mrs. Kennedy was contemplating litigation. Bobby had told me there would be no law suit.

"I learned from the *Times* there would be."

Asked how he feels today about Mrs. Kennedy, Manchester says: "I feel a deep well of sorrow that what began as a noble project should have descended to a law suit. I am distressed by the extent of the reaction against Jackie. I think that as a symbol she is important.

"Maybe it's an illusion, but maybe people need illusions."

Manchester denies that his book is "pathologically anti-LBJ."

"I think Johnson acted in credibly difficult circumstances. I think he behaved well. We were all slobbs that afternoon. He was strong, effective."

On the matter of money, Manchester says: "Yes, I'm going to make a lot. But in the light of my three years agony, it's not excessive.

In the publishing world, the estimates are that the Kennedy Memorial Library will make 5,000,000 dollars from the book.

"My agent has predicted that my share may gross somewhere in the area of one and a half million dollars, but that will be substantially reduced by taxes and legal expenses, and I may come out with something in the range of 500,000 dollars."

"At the time of writing I was not thinking in terms of money, and I refused to worry about it. I live quietly and frugally on the edge of a college campus and I don't intend to change my way of living now."