

# Mrs. Kennedy and Look Consult in Book Dispute

## Widow in Tears

By JOHN CORRY

Mrs. John F. Kennedy reviewed some passages from "Death of a President" yesterday at a meeting with representatives of Look magazine. She left in tears.

The meeting was held in a law office on Wall Street. Mrs. Kennedy, accompanied by Simon H. Rifkind, her lawyer, and Richard Goodwin, an adviser, arrived at 1:15, a little later than expected.

She left silently about two hours later, stared at the sidewalk, and climbed quickly into the rear seat of a dark blue Oldsmobile.

Mr. Rifkind, who will represent Mrs. Kennedy in a lawsuit she brought Friday to block the publication of "Death of a President," said that Look had never before granted access to the material it wants to use in its serialization of the book.

## Exploitation Charged

Mrs. Kennedy said in the suit that William Manchester, the author of "Death of a President," had exploited the emotional state she was in after the assassination of her husband by his use of her personal recollections.

Mr. Manchester was reported convinced that he could not make further changes in his book without betraying his understanding of history and his interpretation of the late President's attitude toward impor-

Continued on Page 47, Column 1

Continued From Page 1, Col. 2

tant events. Mrs. Kennedy has said that she has never read "Death of a President," but that her advisers had. To read it, she has said, would be too painful.

Mr. Rifkind said that the meeting yesterday was the first time that Look had offered to show Mrs. Kennedy's representatives the material it would use in the serialization. He said he had invited Mrs. Kennedy to "come along in case she had any comment to make on the use of the material which we observed in the text."

"She still has not seen the material," he said, "but when we asked her a question with respect to an event or something of that kind she was available so that she could respond to such questions."

The meeting was held in the office of David W. Peck of the law firm of Sullivan & Cromwell, which will represent Look in the suit. William Attwood, editor in chief of Cowles Communications, Inc., which publishes Look, also participated.

Mr. Rifkind, a former Federal judge, is now a partner in the firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison. He said that "there were no discussions of a settlement at the meeting." He said that "it was just an opportunity to discuss the material."

He amplified this last night in a telephone conversation.

"In the course of litigation people have a right to call on each other for production of all kinds of material," he said. "If something should require production we ask for it. If it isn't given we go to court and ask for direction. That's all that happened here."

## No Part Is Read

Mr. Rifkind also said that Mrs. Kennedy had not read any part of "Death of a President" in his presence. He said Mrs. Kennedy had been upset when she left the meeting because it had been arranged privately and "she was dismayed to find that anyone knew of it."

The contract that Senator Robert F. Kennedy and Mr. Manchester signed in March, 1964, stipulated that "Death of a President" could not be published without the permission of Mrs. Kennedy or the Senator.

Harper & Row, Publishers, Inc., plans to release the book in March or April. A four-part 80,000-word serialization of the 300,000-word book is scheduled to begin with the Jan. 10 issue

of Look.

## More Revisions Refused

According to one source involved in the legal dispute, Look magazine had refused to make any further revisions in the material it plans to serialize. Mrs. Kennedy contends that she has never approved the publication of any part of "Death of a President."

However, when asked what Look's position was on further changes, Mr. Rifkind said only that "I cannot answer that question."

It is known that, as early as last August, Mrs. Kennedy began to telephone officials of Look with some frequency, asking them to delete passages in "Death of a President."

In particular, she was agitated about sections that dealt with the trip from Dallas to Washington aboard Air Force One, the jet that carried her husband's body after the assassination.

It is understood that Look agreed to make revisions in the manuscript in September and that Mrs. Kennedy then began to exert new pressure on the magazine to suppress the entire serialization.

Besides Mrs. Kennedy's objections to the use of her personal recollections in the manuscript, it has been reported that Sen-

ator Kennedy was unhappy with some passages concerning President Johnson. These pictured Mr. Johnson as having been rude and overbearing. Mrs. Kennedy and friends, in turn, were said to have been infuriated by his behavior.

Senator Kennedy and his associates are said to believe that this could only cause new tensions between the Johnsons and the Kennedys.

In The New York Times this morning, however, James Reston reported in his column on the editorial page that Bill D. Moyers, Mr. Johnson's press secretary, has read the passages dealing with Mr. Johnson. Mr.

NEW YORK TIMES, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1966.

Reston said that the President undoubtedly knows about them.

Commenting on Mrs. Kennedy's suit, Edward S. Greenbaum, the attorney for Harper & Row, said that "there's never been a case like this before."

Mr. Greenbaum said he would file his answers to the suit this week, probably on Thursday.

"You'll know what our defense is when you see it," he said.

However, it is expected the publishers will contend that Mrs. Kennedy and Senator Kennedy gave their permission to publish in a telegram that Mr. Kennedy sent to Mr. Manches-

ter last summer. The telegram said that members of the Kennedy family would "place no obstacle" in the way of publication.

Mr. Kennedy, however, contended in an affidavit he filed in support of Mrs. Kennedy that the telegram did not mention the date of publication and that it did not void the original contract. This states that the book will not be published until Nov. 22, 1968, five years after the assassination.

After the meeting yesterday with Mr. Peck in his office at 48 Wall Street, which is near the corner of William Street, Mrs. Kennedy tried to leave

from a back exit on Pine Street. Finding this blocked, she left from the Wall Street side.

She wore a short camel colored coat and a matching dress with a short skirt. When she arrived, her car first circled the block, apparently because one of her companions recognized a reporter outside Mr. Peck's office, and she wanted to find another entrance.

There is surprise in publishing circles that Mrs. Kennedy filed a suit.

One source close to the dispute said:

"We were all astonished that it went this far. Our lawyers

have had some fascinating arguments: Will she or won't she serve the papers. No one really expected Mrs. Kennedy to go through with it."

"We are baffled," another publishing source said. "It was expected that Mrs. Kennedy would relent, that Goodwin would show up at the last minute and work something out."

Mr. Goodwin, who accompanied Mrs. Kennedy and Mr. Rifkind to the meeting yesterday, has been Mrs. Kennedy's chief adviser on the manuscript of "Death of a President."

**REMEMBER THE NEEDIEST!**