

Post 1/16/67
The Manchester Case

In your editorial of Dec. 15 about the dispute between Mrs. John F. Kennedy and the publishers of a book concerning the assassination of her husband you seem to be saying that her thoughts about her husband belong not to her but to posterity.

I think it is time that some attention be given to the protection of privacy as well as the public's right to know. A distinction should be drawn between personal happenings and public affairs. This case makes a good starting point because of the special relationship we all bear to it. Far from giving us the right to know all the painful details, isn't our higher obligation to protect Mrs. Kennedy's feelings?

Curiosity about all the personal details does not give the public the right to know them. If she objects, that should be sufficient reason for everyone to refrain from publishing such details during her lifetime or as long as she directs. It is not as though history is being deprived of any part of the agony, since the tape of her conversations on the subject is to go into the Kennedy Library.

In a world run by men, why is there so little chivalry?

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