

# Manchester Lays Kennedy's Attack on

## WRITER CONDEMNS SENATOR'S MOTIVE

Says Advisers to His Critic  
Think in Terms of Another  
Kennedy Administration

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the Manchester book. Senator Kennedy said last night that he would not comment on the Manchester interviews since he had not read them. But, he said, the fact is that Ted Sorensen never advised anyone to sue."

In commenting on the Newsweek interview, Senator Kennedy said last night: "It all finally comes down to the fact that Mr. Manchester gave his word and then broke it. No statement or interview or description of events, however dramatic, can alter that plain fact."

Mr. Manchester did not speculate, in The Times interview, on precisely how his book might affect Senator Kennedy, although he denied that it was a diatribe against President Johnson.

He told the story of the assassination of President Kennedy, he said, exactly as it happened.

"To do less," he said, "would have violated my integrity as a reporter."

Not all the people involved in the dispute over the book accept Mr. Manchester's views. Mrs. Kennedy called the book "tasteless and distorted." Evan Thomas, the vice president of Harper & Row, which plans a first printing of 400,000 copies of the book in the spring, warned the Kennedys that the manuscript was in part tasteless in its treatment of Mr. Johnson.

Mr. Manchester himself, in a letter to Mrs. Kennedy, wrote that he had tried to purge himself of political and personal prejudices while he wrote the book.

"Though I tried desperately to suppress my bias against a certain eminent statesman who always reminded me of someone in a grade D movie of the late show," he wrote, "the prejudice showed through."

"This was cheap of me, but I

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## His Book to Politics

suppose there is a little meanness in all of us."

Neither in the letter nor in the interview did he name the statesman to whom he referred.

Neither the Kennedys nor their advisers deny that much of the revision they sought in the book dealt with material that had political implications. But this was done, they say, largely in the interest of good taste.

They agree that the book could strain relationships between the Kennedy and Johnson political alliances, but they say this is largely because the book could be thought of as the official Kennedy version of the assassination.

Mrs. Kennedy and Senator Kennedy did authorize Mr. Manchester to write the book, they say, but never approved its text.

Says He Got Approval

Mr. Manchester, however, says that the Kennedys approved the manuscript last July 14 when John Siegenthaler, the editor of The Nashville Tennessean, who is one of the Kennedy advisers, told him it was all right to submit the manuscript to magazines for bids on the serialization rights.

Furthermore, he says, Mrs. Kennedy did not object to publication of the book until she learned of Look magazine's offer for the rights—\$665,000.

"She apparently felt that this was too much for an author to get," he said.

The Kennedys say this is absurd, that when Mrs. Kennedy first objected to serialization she thought the money was going to the Kennedy Library in Cambridge, Mass. Furthermore, they say, Mr. Thomas was also under this impression.

They also say that, when Mr. Manchester agreed to write the book, he said he would accept

no more than \$250,000 for his work.

Now, Senator Kennedy told a friend, "They have the money and we have the public relations problem."

Mr. Manchester says he does not understand the Kennedys, but he insists that they sometimes treated him as if he were a paid family chronicler, although they did not support him financially while he worked.

"Mao Tse-tung and Jackie are the two most inscrutable people I know," he said.

While gathering material for the book, Mr. Manchester had two interviews with Mrs. Kennedy, recording about 10 hours of the conversation on four reels of tape.

The tapes are now in a safe

deposit box. Simon H. Rifkind, Mrs. Kennedy's attorney, has one key to the box, Mr. Manchester the other.

"This is humiliating," he said. "Am I a pervert? Have I ever belonged to any disloyal organization? The Kennedys entrusted me with all kinds of confidences, and I never violated them, but now I'm suspect."

Mr. Manchester admits that Mrs. Kennedy made a deep emotional impact on him during the interviews. "She must be seen to be believed," he said. "When she turns on the charm, it's incredible."

While he wrote the book, Mr. Manchester said, "I knew for the first time what it was like to live in an absolute monarchy."

"It was like she was Marie Antoinette, completely isolated from the world around her by her court—her advisers," he said.

Mr. Manchester, who wrote an earlier book about President Kennedy, "Portrait of a President," said that at first he had transferred his feelings about the President to Mrs. Kennedy and Senator Kennedy and that this had been a mistake.

"They don't understand contemporary history," he said. "John Kennedy did."

"The one Kennedy I had to please with the book was John Kennedy," he said. "I think I did that. You have to tell a story as straight as you can and to do less is to violate your integrity."

Mr. Manchester denies that he suffered a nervous breakdown while writing the book, although he admits to having had emotional difficulties.

He said he entered a hospital on Nov. 26, 1965, suffering from exhaustion, and that he stayed in bed 12 days. On the 13th day, he said, he arranged to have a doctor's vacant office put at his disposal and spent the next eight weeks there working on the book.

He stayed in the hospital, he said, to avoid phone calls and distractions. Before then, he said, he had worked virtually every day for two years, usually as many as 15 hours a day.

He says, however, that his emotional problems were considerable. He recalls an evening

nedy said he wanted Look, not Life, to serialize the book. One reason, he told Warren Rogers of the Look bureau in Washington, is "that Look has been very good to the Kennedy family over the past 2½ years, and even in the years before that."

After the rights were sold to Look, Mr. Manchester called the Senator and told him the price—\$665,000. According to Mr. Manchester, the Senator said: "Great! Isn't that a record? Look has been so nice to the family, and Henry Luce has been such a bastard."

Nonetheless, according to Mr. Manchester, the Kennedys soon sought to keep the serialization from Look. Last August, he says, at Mrs. Kennedy's request, he visited her in Hyannis Port, Mass.

He says that Mrs. Kennedy drove to the airport to meet him, and that she was cordial to him. He says that he watched her waterskiing later, and that he went swimming.

He says that Richard M. Goodwin, who was representing Mrs. Kennedy, was also there, and that after swimming they returned to the Kennedy compound.

Mr. Manchester says that during the meeting Mrs. Kennedy suggested that Mr. Manchester bring suit against Look to prevent the magazine from publishing the serialization.

Mrs. Kennedy said, according to Mr. Manchester, "that anyone who is against me will look like a rat unless I do something silly like running off with Eddie Fisher."

Mr. Manchester says that Mrs. Kennedy asked him to do all in his power to stop the serialization and that he did not know how to reply to her.

However, Mr. Goodwin says that, before Mr. Manchester left, he called his literary agent, Don Congdon, and asked him to send Mrs. Kennedy copies of the galley proofs from the book and the serial. The proofs were to be sent by airplane.

Mr. Goodwin says that Mr. Manchester left then, and that he and Mrs. Kennedy waited for the proofs to arrive. By evening, he says, they called the airport and found that the proofs had come.

But, he says, the airport manager said that after the arrival Mr. Manchester called again and asked that they be put on a return flight to New York.

It was the closest Mrs. Kennedy was to come to seeing the proofs until after she filed suit.

in the previous spring, sitting at home, when his son asked him what the date was.

"I told him it was Nov. 22," he said. "I sat there, reading a paper for a full two minutes, and then I realized what I had said. I looked at my son, and he was stricken, but for me time had stopped on Nov. 22, the day Kennedy was shot."

Mr. Manchester says that by the fall of 1965 he was becoming overcome with exhaustion.

"I was just tired," he said. "I would get a pen and look at the manuscript, and I just couldn't do anything. I was at this part about Lee Harvey Oswald, and I would just sit and look at it. I would get a good night's sleep and still be tired. I'd just had it."

On the night of Nov. 22, 1965, precisely two years after the assassination, he wrote that "Lee Oswald was killed in the presence of more than 70 uniformed police officers."

He says that after that he sat and stared at his typewriter.

"Oswald," he says. "This was the theater of the absurd. This was Camus. I was overwhelmed. A few days later I was in the hospital."

At another meeting, Mr. Manchester said, at the Senator's home, Hickory Hill, in McLean, Va., he and the Senator swam together in the pool.

"Bobby would say something," he said, "and then he'd duck under water. I'd turn to answer him, and he'd be gone. I'd start to say something, and he'd pop up behind me, his hair streaming over his face, and he'd ask another question."

"Once he said to me when I was hedging on some things, 'Bill, you have the vagueness of a genius.'"

#### Friendships Torn

Mr. Manchester insisted that he had no animosity toward anyone in the dispute. Nonetheless, the dispute left tempers short and old friendships torn.

For example, Senator Ken-

## STERN GETS APPEAL FROM MANCHESTER

HAMBURG, Germany, Jan. 22 (AP)—Henry Nannen, editor of the West German magazine Stern, said today he had received a letter from the lawyers of William Manchester saying that the author would associate himself with efforts to prevent publication of an uncut version of "The Death of a President."

Mr. Nannen said in a statement: "Even if Manchester should apply for an injunction against Stern, he will not be successful according to the conditions of the new [German] law of copyright."

"For the copyright law guarantees an author a so-called right of recall only as long as the work is not already prepared for printing. However, Manchester's serialization has already started appearing in Stern."

Look magazine has applied for an injunction to prevent Stern from further publishing of what it considers an unauthorized version of Mr. Manchester's account of the Kennedy assassination.

The court adjourned its hearing of the case after six hours Friday, and a verdict is expected tomorrow.