

W. J. T. 3/4/67

Bobby Asks Harper Halt RFK Book

Harper & Row, publishers of William Manchester's, "The Death of a President," has been asked by Sen. Robert F. Kennedy to halt publication of a book containing the senator's major speeches on national and international affairs.

Observers of the publishing scene said that the senator's action apparently resulted from the recent dispute between the Kennedy family and the publishing house over the Manchester book.

But Frank Mankiewicz, the senator's press secretary, today denied that the move stemmed from the Manchester episode.

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"The fact is this past fall there was kind of an agreement with Sen. Kennedy that the book be held up," Mankiewicz said. "I think it was in October or November. The thing was held up before the Manchester suit."

Mankiewicz said that "it was mutually agreed to postpone it." He scotched reports that the manuscript was held back to include Kennedy's recent speeches, including a major statement expected this week on the Viet Nam war.

"I never said, as was reported, that the book was postponed last fall to include the Viet Nam speech," Mankiewicz said. "The senator did not know that he would make the Viet Nam speech last fall."

Spokesmen for the publishing house were unavailable for comment last night on the Kennedy action.