

Heart of Dispute.

By LARRY VAN GELDER

World Journal Tribune Staff

Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy is determined that the fabric of history will not be adorned with the thread of her raw emotions, a source who has read the manuscript of William Manchester's "The Death of a President" said today.

Her objective is not censorship but the protection of her private feelings from public exploitation.

Her battle is designed not to toy with the procession of history but to prevent a parade of her anguished confidences before the public.

Along the narrow, sometimes nearly invisible line tracing the boundary between the historically significant and the deeply intimate lies the area of argument.

And divorce—of the historical from the personal—forms the core of the controversy.

The source emphasized that Mrs. Kennedy maintains without objection Manchester's right to set down and interpret—even if

—Jackie's Privacy

erroneously—matters of historical significance.

Had Manchester's account reflected upon her unfavorably as First Lady, as wife, as mother, still—the source stressed—Mrs. Kennedy would not have moved to block publication.

She recoils from his use of confidences she uttered to him in the belief that she was fully protected by the memorandum of understanding signed by Manchester and Sen. Robert F. Kennedy and reserving the right of final approval to her and the Senator.

What she told Manchester, what he read of her letters and those of her daughter, Caroline, Mrs. Kennedy considered background information that would be useful to him. She intended him to understand but not to publish this intimate material.

The sources made clear again and again that there is no quarrel over fact and documentation.

The fight focuses on matters concerning

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Associated Press Wirephoto

... SEN. ROBERT KENNEDY SKIING IN IDAHO

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a husband and a wife, a father and a child.

Sources other than the one who explained Mrs. Kennedy's attitude have speculated that her determination to seek an injunction against publication of Manchester's work by Look magazine on Jan. 10 and by Harper & Row in April is based on passages reportedly recounting.

- How she stood in a corridor in Parkland Hospital in Dallas while doctors worked over her husband's body. A priest nearby holding a rosary repeatedly encouraged her to bend down, and kiss the beads and employed such words as "honey" and "sweetie" in an attempt to comfort her until a Presidential aide discouraged him.

- How Mrs. Kennedy insisted, over the objections of a nurse who wanted to spare her the sight of the President's wounds, on entering the operating room after her husband was pronounced dead. "You wouldn't want to see what is in there," the nurse said. Mrs. Kennedy replied "I can decide that for myself," and went in. The top of the President's head was covered with a sheet, hiding the wound.

- How Mrs. Kennedy chose the pink suit she was wearing at the time of the assassination, and how the President reportedly was disturbed when he learned that the Dallas weather would be cold because he knew his wife would be angry after having packed warm weather clothes.

CHOICE

- How Sen. Ralph Yarborough and Gov. John Connally, both of Texas argued about which of them was to ride in the President's car, and how President Kennedy had to step in to resolve the dispute by choosing Connally to accompany him.

The source who explained Mrs. Kennedy's attitude declined to pinpoint specific passages that formed the basis of her resolve to take Manchester, Look and Harper & Row to court, pointing out that no service would be performed by airing those sections Mrs. Kennedy hoped to eliminate.

Instead, the source reiterated that she had no quarrel with matters of historical fact and significance, including passages

dealing with President Johnson.

The source spoke regretfully of the breakdown in negotiations between the Kennedy's and Manchester, and said that if discussions had continued, Mrs. Kennedy's representative would have been told to decide all questions by attempting to determine what was historical and what was personal—and to resolve all doubts in favor of history.

EMBARRASSMENT

However, the source said, Mrs. Kennedy's confidences were not matters of historical significance and were never intended to be quoted.

The passages she objected to, the source said, left the reader with a feeling of embarrassment although they did not dominate the manuscript. In the source's opinion, they manifested the author's poor judgment and their elimination would improve the book.

It is unlikely that the case to be argued before Justice S. Saul Streit in State Supreme Court next Tuesday will air the crucial passages.

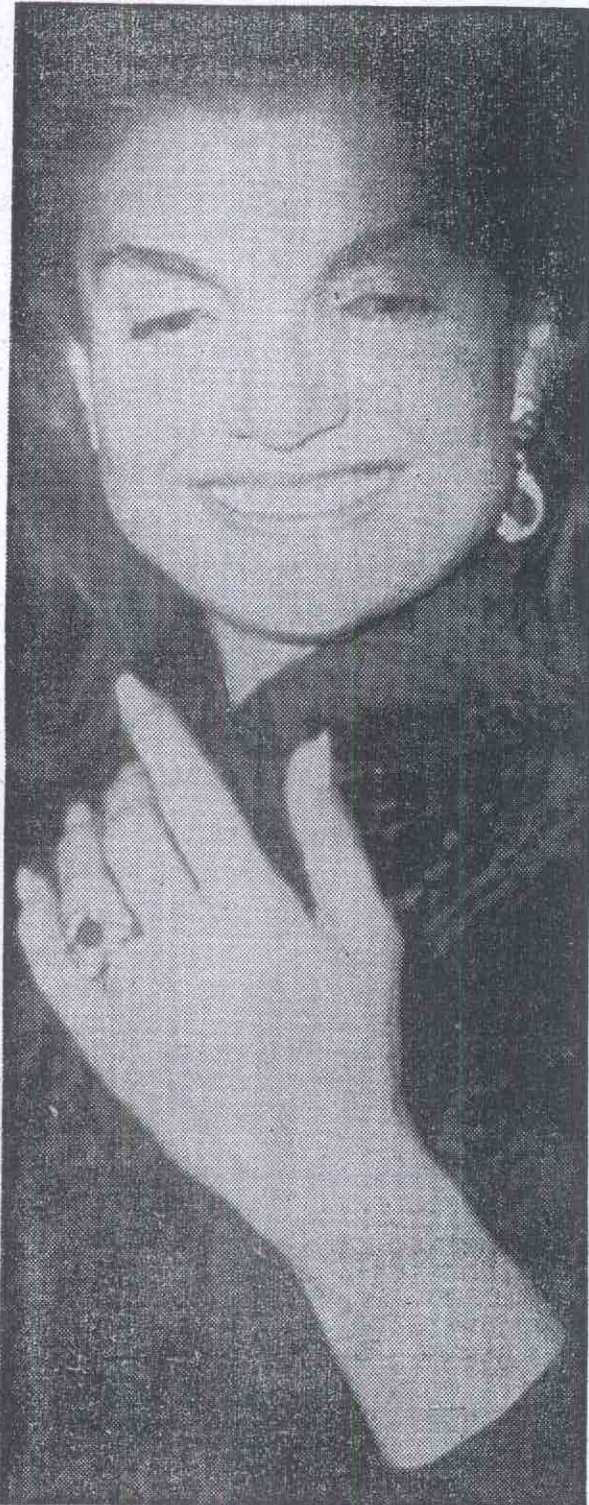
The courtroom battle will be as legal as its foundation is emotional.

At issue is the memorandum of understanding giving the right of approval to Mrs. Kennedy and her brother-in-law, and barring publication before Nov. 22, 1968.

In an effort to prove that the terms of the original agreement were subsequently altered, the defendants are expected to cite a telegram and letter from Robert F. Kennedy saying that the Kennedy family would not stand in the way of publication of his work.

Wording is the lawyers' battleground.

The heart is Mrs. Kennedy's.



United Press International Photo

MRS. KENNEDY AT THEATER LAST NIGHT . . .

LBJ Gallantry To Jackie Cited

By ROBERT E. THOMPSON

World Journal Tribune Special

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20—Persons close to President Johnson said today it would be an unfortunate distortion of fact if Johnson were portrayed in the hotly contested William Manchester book as having acted boorishly toward the Kennedy family in November, 1963.

One source, who was on the presidential jet that carried Johnson and the body of the late President John F. Kennedy back to Washington from Dallas on Nov. 22, conceded that there was tenseness between the Johnson and Kennedy forces on that emotion-laden flight.

But he said Johnson made every effort to treat Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy and the late President's staff with consideration while pursuing his constitutional responsibility to preserve the continuity of govern-

ment. The source said everyone aboard the plane was in a fog, deeply disturbed by the assassination and uncertain of its ramifications.

Jack J. Valenti, former assistant to Johnson and now president of the Motion Picture Association of America, said in a separate interview he never saw any friction or hostility aboard Air Force One.

Although he said he has not

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read Manchester's book, "The Death of a President" Valenti maintained that Johnson was, at all times, compassionate toward Mrs. Kennedy.

"The enormity of his responsibility was on him," said Valenti. "His whole demeanor was one of sombre calm. He was thoughtful, kind and gracious to Mrs. Kennedy. All the time, he was conscious of her grief."

These two accounts of Johnson conduct are further substantiated in the current issue of Newsweek by White House correspondent Charles Roberts, one of two newsmen who made the sad flight to Washington on the presidential plane.

LBJ 'SOLICITOUS'

Roberts, who has covered the White House since the beginning of the Eisenhower administration, is quoted as stating that he saw no show of insensitivity on Johnson's part. Newsweek added: "Indeed, to Roberts and others, the new President's behavior seemed a model of restraint and solicitude."

Johnson and the White

House have attempted to avoid any public involvement in the court fight between Manchester and the Kennedys.

But the President is understood to be concerned lest the facts about what happened on Air Force One and in the day immediately following the assassination be presented in a false light by Manchester.

There have been reports that the Manchester book implies a dispute between Johnson and Robert Kennedy over the new President's decision to address Congress and the nation just

four days after the assassination.

Valenti, who became an assistant to Johnson on that fateful day remained in the White House until last summer, said he is not aware of any such disagreement.

"The President was determined and all the advisers around him decided that he must go before the people of the country—and of the world—as soon as possible to reassure them," said Valenti.

One source, who was interviewed by Manchester during his period of research on the book, said the author, a staunch admirer of the late President, had identified himself emotionally as pro-Kennedy and anti-Johnson.

In addition, the individual added, Manchester interviewed Mrs. Kennedy early in 1964 while she remained in a highly emotional state, still suffering greatly from the tragedy of Dallas.

It is understandable, the source said, that the former First Lady may have made comments in that extremely difficult hour which she now

would prefer to withhold from publication.

The consensus among persons who watched the transition at first hand is that Johnson has never had a finer hour than in that trying period when he grasped the reins of government, moved forward with the Kennedy legislative program and demonstrated utmost understanding toward the late President's widow.

One source said it would be terribly unfortunate if the events of those days, steeped as they were in great sorrow, were to be distorted in a book.

World Journal Tribune, New York, Tuesday, December 20, 1966



Associated Press Wirephoto

SEN. ROBERT KENNEDY TAKES A SPILL ON SUN VALLEY SKI SLOPE
Avoids collision with another skier by sudden stop

Where Book Made Editor Cry

By CY EGAN

World Journal Tribune Staff

Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy's ability to make decisions "like a Queen" during the ordeal of her husband's assassination faltered when it came to how her daughter would be told of the tragedy, William Manchester's "The Death of a President" reportedly reveals.

A particularly poignant part of the book, which reduced one editor to tears, is said to describe how a nurse told little Caroline, then five years old, of her father's death.

The nurse reportedly was chosen for the task by Mrs. Hugh D. Auchincloss, Mrs. Kennedy's mother, after her daughter came to her desperately seeking advice on who should talk to Caroline.

TOLD OF ARREST

The book reportedly discloses that Mrs. Kennedy was in the Navy Hospital at Bethesda, Md., awaiting an autopsy report on her husband's death, when she was told of Lee Harvey Oswald's arrest as the assassin. Her brother-in-law, Robert, allegedly told her: "They think they found the man who did it. They say he's a Communist."

Mrs. Kennedy's first reaction, according to Manchester, was: "That's absurd." According to the manuscript, she later said: "He (the president) didn't even have the satisfaction of being killed for civil rights. It had to be some silly little Communist . . .

"It even robs his death of any meaning."

REACTION ON RUBY

Mrs. Kennedy also is quoted as saying Oswald's murder by Jack Ruby was an "awful" deed.

One editor who read the manuscript said he wept openly

when he read the passage about Caroline.

OPENLY WEPT

"It was as heartbreaking as anything in this book filled with heartbreak," she said.

The incident is understood to be among the passages Mrs. Kennedy is seeking to have cut from the manuscript before it is serialized in *Look* magazine and later published in book form.

Mrs. Kennedy also is reported anxious to delete contents of a highly-emotional personal letter she placed in her husband's coffin as well as other letters she wrote to her husband in life, some with her daughter, Caroline.

One she is said to be especially intent on having cut out of the book is a letter she sent to her husband while vacationing in Greece a month before the assassination.

Another passage of the book reportedly relates how the dead President's son, John, then two years old, made a perfect salute for the first time when urged by Mrs. Kennedy to "Salute your Daddy" as they stood before the coffin.

While John had long before been taught how to salute, the manuscript says, the little boy never mastered the maneuver perfectly until he saluted his father in death.

The book also reportedly por-

trays great confusion just after the assassination, with Mrs. Kennedy mistakenly barred for a time from the emergency room in Dallas' Parkland Hospital, where her wounded husband was taken.

The hospital is alleged to have been unprepared for receiving the President because of failure of a police radio system prevented relaying word of his pending arrival.

STAY WITH COFFIN

The book is understood to indicate that Mrs. Kennedy's desire to stay with her husband's coffin on the return trip to Washington caused some friction over arrangements for transporting her and President Johnson to the capital.

Mrs. Kennedy is said to have insisted on staying in the rear of the Presidential plane, Air Force One, with the coffin.

When she did come forward at Johnson's request to appear in a picture with him as he was sworn in, the official photographer's camera failed and an awkward delay resulted, the book recounts.

When the plane reached Washington, according to reports on the manuscript, a military honor guard was waved away by Presidential aides and the coffin was unloaded with great difficulty onto a fork lift truck that was too short to reach the plane's door.

Mrs. Kennedy and close associates of the dead President had to jump down onto the truck, according to the book, but President Johnson was prevented from following by Kenneth O'Donnell, an aide and personal friend of the late

President, who stood in the plane's doorway.

Some readers of the manuscript claimed, however, that Manchester's account does not convey the impression that O'Donnell's behavior was intentional.

Mrs. Kennedy also is understood to insist on deletion from the book of the efforts she made to hide her husband's wounds from public view with her hands and a Secret Service agent's coat before he was taken into Parkland Hospital.

Mrs. Kennedy is said to object strenuously to portions of the manuscript that reportedly describe in her own words the last evening she spent with her husband before they flew to Dallas and the loneliness of her first night back in the White House.

She also is understood to want deletion of a description of how she put her own wedding band on her dead husband's finger in Parkland Hospital.

The manuscript is said to end with a list of 500 persons whom Manchester interviewed for the book. Johnson's name does not appear. Manchester reportedly submitted written questions to Johnson, but got no answers.

While a friend of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy claimed Manchester has "a poisonous dislike for Mr. Johnson," one editor who read the manuscript said the book conveys the impression that Johnson may have been "poorly advised by those around him," but "was trying to do what he could to hold the country together at a terribly difficult time."



The New York Times

ARRIVE FOR A CONFERENCE ON KENNEDY STORY: Mrs. John F. Kennedy, Richard Goodwin, right, who was assistant to President Kennedy, and Simon H. Rifkind, almost hidden, lawyer, on way to Wall Street offices of Look magazine representatives.