

MANCHESTER'S STORY OF THE BOOK FIGHT

Bobby Went Into a Tigerlike Rage

NEW YORK, March 20 (UPI) — Mrs. John F. Kennedy at first believed the book, "The Death of A President," would be disregarded by the American public, bound in black and set aside to collect dust on dark library shelves.

She had little inkling the book she commissioned to tell the story of her husband's assassination and the turmoil of governmental change would create an international furor. When the tumult erupted, author William Manchester said yesterday, "Unbelievable charges were made, unforgivable words spoken and treasured friendships ruptured."

OWN STORY

Mr. Manchester said Mrs. Kennedy and others attempted "to suppress vital facts" contained in the controversial book. His accusations appear in an article in the current issue of *Look Magazine* entitled "William Manchester's Own Story." It will appear on newstands tomorrow. The book was serialized in *Look*.

He also accused the former First Lady of inciting Sen. Robert F. Kennedy into a "tigerlike" rage to a point where he demanded the project be abandoned. This in spite of the fact, Mr. Manchester said, that both Mrs. Kennedy and the Senator had given him written assurances they would not try to censor the manuscript.

Mr. Manchester said Mrs. Kennedy "blazed high as a bonfire" before the recent court battle over deletions she demanded from the text. And the author said that as early as mid-1964, he found it "almost impossible to establish any satisfactory professional contact" with either the widow or the Senator.

But Mr. Manchester retained his admiration and praise of Mrs. Kennedy.

Long after the controversy surrounding the book is forgotten, Mr. Manchester said, history would recall that "in our

hour of disgrace and confusion, Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy, who had lost more than any of us, held us all together, remained true to the leader we had lost, and, in kindling that Arlington flame, rekindled our national pride."

But, he said, Mrs. Kennedy did little to help him research the book.

Mrs. Kennedy originally asked Mr. Manchester to delete some 6472 words, the author said, but settled for 1600.

"In sum," he wrote, "over 75 per cent of the deletions proposed in her behalf did not involve her. They were an extension of the attempt to suppress vital facts."

Mr. Manchester charged that Mrs. Kennedy's private secretary, Pamela Turnure, was permitted to read the manuscript and "hacked out 77 passages or phrases."

The author said that after his lengthy interviews with Mrs. Kennedy, which he revealed brought him close to tears, he destroyed some 200 pages of text he believed were "either too personal or needlessly critical of men still in public life."