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Controversy Flares Again Over Manchester's Book

NEW YORK (AP) — The first chapter of the book, "The Death of a President," was tossed out at the insistence of advisers to the Kennedy family because it pictured President Johnson as "a man of violence," a source close to the family said Monday.

The source made the statement as the controversy over the book about the assassination of President John F. Kennedy flared anew after author William Manchester charged that Sen. Robert F. Kennedy wanted to "shred and emasculate" the book simply for political reasons.

Manchester was not immediately available for comment on the countercharge made by the source close to the Kennedy family. The author was reported on an extended vacation at an undisclosed location.

The Kennedy source said: "The whole first chapter was a deer hunting scene in Texas. It showed Johnson as a man of violence who loved to kill deer and would force others to do the same.

"It seemed to set symbolic overtones which were unjust and inaccurate. It seemed an attempt to make this (the chapter) the symbolic framework for the whole book, which was unjust and disastrous.

"It had nothing to do with the assassination since it occurred three years before the assassination, right after the election

of President Kennedy. It pictured President Kennedy as a man reluctant to do this (kill deer), a much more gentle figure."

President Kennedy and Johnson went hunting on the LBJ Ranch on Nov. 17, 1960, the period after the election and prior to the inauguration. It was Kennedy's first deer hunt and he shot two bucks. The two had met at the LBJ Ranch for a post election discussion of various problems facing their administration.

It was learned that the Kennedy family and other persons close to the family felt so strongly about other passages that Manchester refused to discard that they insisted their names be deleted from the author's list of acknowledgments of persons he had contacted for vital information. This was one.

Manchester's views on the controversy came in a series of interviews with the New York Times at his home in Middletown, Conn., and with Newsweek magazine, prior to his leaving on vacation. The Times' interviews were published in today's editions. The Newsweek interview will appear in the Jan. 30 issue.

Manchester said Sen. Robert Kennedy "is surrounded by people who have hitched their wagon to his star."

"They all think in terms of another Kennedy administration," he said.

Manchester did not speculate on precisely how his book might affect Sen. Robert Kennedy. He denied that it was a diatribe against President Johnson.

He said that Theodore C. Sorensen, one of the Kennedy advisers, had advised Sen. Kennedy to file suit to block publication of the book because of his (Sen. Kennedy's) own political future. Manchester said he was told this by Sen. Kennedy.

"It all finally comes down to the fact that Mr. Manchester gave his word and then broke it," Sen. Kennedy said. "No statement or interview, or description of events, however dramatic, can alter that plain fact."

Manchester said he had no problems with the Kennedys until they learned Look magazine was paying him \$665,000 for

something in the range of \$500,000."

Richard Goodwin, an aide to the late president and Mrs. Kennedy's top adviser on the book, issued a statement in San Francisco Sunday night.

He said: "Mr. Manchester's account bears no relationship to the actual course of discussion and controversy surrounding his book. Reading it, one is struck by the enormous difficulty of answering statements made in complete disregard of the truth."

Goodwin said that when Manchester delivered his manuscript in March 1965, "The publishers wrote representatives of the Kennedy family that the book is 'in part tasteless and gratuitously insulting to President Johnson and, for that matter, to the memory of the late President Kennedy.'"

the serialization rights.

He said that when Sen. Kennedy told Mrs. John F. Kennedy, then vacationing at Hyannis Port, Mass., about the payments she "was concerned over the sum of money and what she felt was commercialization."

Manchester said that his agent predicted that his own share might be "in the area of \$1.5 million." After taxes and legal expenses, Manchester said, "I may come out with