

# Mrs. Kennedy Is Reported Nearing Accord With Look

By JOHN CORRY

There were indications last night that Look magazine and Mrs. John F. Kennedy were approaching agreement in their dispute over "The Death of a President." There was a report that, if Look pledged not to publish any of Mrs. Kennedy's personal recollections that did not deal directly with the assassination of her husband, she would end her suit against the magazine.

Representatives of Harper & Row did not take part in the discussions yesterday, which involved only representatives of Look and Mrs. Kennedy.

Mrs. Kennedy has said that William Manchester, author of "The Death of a President," had misused the interviews she granted him when he was preparing the book.

Last Friday she filed a suit in State Supreme Court to prevent both the publication of the book by Harper & Row, Publishers, Inc., and its four-part, 80,000-word serialization in Look. The suit is to be heard on Dec. 27, and the serialization is to begin in the issue that will reach the newsstands on Jan. 10.

A source close to the dispute said the Kennedy family had shown some willingness to settle the dispute in the last two days.

He noted Senator Robert F. Kennedy's statement on Monday night that said Look and Harper & Row had "pushed us into the suit" by a refusal to show representatives of the Kennedy

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## She Made Up Her Own Mind on Deletions, Friend Says

By MARTIN ARNOLD

Mrs. John F. Kennedy decided for herself what paragraphs she wanted deleted from the manuscript of "The Death of a President," one of her close friends and advisers said yesterday.

Richard N. Goodwin, a former aide to Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, said in an interview: "I read Mrs. Kennedy every passage in the book of a personal nature or gave her a detailed summary of those passages. She then made the decision, on what she thought was too personal, of no historical importance, and should not be included in the book. Publishers' statements to the contrary, Mrs. Kennedy knew precisely what she was objecting to in the book."

Mrs. Kennedy filed suit in State Supreme Court last Friday to prevent the publication of the book by Harper & Row, Publishers, Inc., and its four-part serialization in Look.

Mr. Goodwin has been acting as one of Mrs. Kennedy's advisers during the negotiations to settle the suit out of court.

She said in the suit that much of the information she had given William Manchester, author of the book, was to be used as background material in helping him to gain a perspective for the book, but that it was not to be used in the book without her permission because it was not historical, merely personal.

### Letter Poses Mystery

An example of the type of material she objected to was a letter she wrote her husband from Greece the summer before he was assassinated on Nov. 22, 1963.

"Mrs. Kennedy never gave Manchester that letter or even showed it to him," Mr. Goodwin said. "Somebody else gave it to him, and to this day we don't know who."

Several statements from the publisher, Look magazine and Mr. Manchester had implied that if Mrs. Kennedy had read the manuscript the lawsuit might not have been filed.

On Monday, Cass Canfield, chairman of the executive committee of Harper & Row, said in a statement, for example, that "understandably, the members of the Kennedy family were unwilling to read the manuscript themselves, and hence they designated representatives to do this for them. Had they read it themselves, the present situation might have been avoided."

It was in answer to this im-

plication that Mr. Goodwin made his remarks. He said that it made little difference whether Mrs. Kennedy had read the entire manuscript or parts of it or had had someone else read them to her—that she was as knowledgeable about the parts she wanted deleted as anyone else in the case.

Mr. Goodwin said that in contrast to the details that had been given to Mrs. Kennedy, Senator Robert F. Kennedy had been "only made aware of what was in the Manchester book."

Mr. Goodwin, the 35-year-old former Presidential aide, has been called an articulate man and a facile writer. He is considered brilliant by those who know him and controversial by those who know of him.

#### 'He's an Insider'

His relationship with President Kennedy was once described this way: "He's an insider. He's someone the President turns to naturally, and with a sense of intimacy."

He first went to work for John F. Kennedy in 1959 during Mr. Kennedy's campaign for the Presidency. In the Kennedy Administration, he undertook a number of assignments for the President, and, after the assassination, became a speech writer and special assistant to President Johnson.

He left the White House in September, 1965, to accept a fellowship at the Center for Advanced Studies at Wesleyan University, Middletown, Conn., but he has retained close ties with Senator Robert Kennedy and Mrs. Kennedy, who is said to have a particular trust in his judgment.

Yesterday, he gave a loose

sequence of the events that had led to his involvement in the Manchester book situation.

He said that last summer Pamela Turnure, Mrs. Kennedy's news secretary, read the completed Manchester manuscript and told Mrs. Kennedy that she thought the book would "raise problems."

Late in the summer, he said, Mrs. Kennedy asked him to read the manuscript and excerpt for her everything in it that was of a personal nature.

Yesterday, another source close to the Kennedy family, who declined to have his name used, said that the "fact was that everybody in the Kennedy family was against a lawsuit."

"Nobody wanted it, and up to the end of last week everybody assumed the dispute could be settled without a suit," this source said.

He said members of the Kennedy family were upset also about the references to President Johnson in the book, that they felt that Mr. Manchester had treated the President in an unfair manner and that once the book was published it might have an adverse effect on Robert Kennedy's political future.

"The family decided that they would have to let that go," he said. "They couldn't put Jackie through a lawsuit just for the sake of somebody's political career."

"At one point late last week, Mrs. Kennedy said, 'the only way I can protect my privacy is to sue,' and Bob said, 'That's right,' and that was the final decision to file."

# Mrs. Kennedy and Look Seek Accord

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family the material they intended to publish. Look granted Mrs. Kennedy, Simon H. Rifkind, her attorney, and Richard N. Goodwin, an adviser, access to the disputed material last Saturday. Earlier, a participant in the dispute said this had not been done before for fear the Kennedys would demand too many additional changes.

The source who referred to Robert Kennedy's statement also noted that, in a television interview in Boston Monday night, Senator Edward M. Kennedy said he was "hopeful that someday the book will be published" and that he hoped for a compromise.

This, the source said, is a retreat from a "never" position.

The argument about the book, however, involves more than Mrs. Kennedy's desire for privacy. It touches on the political ambitions of Robert Kennedy, large sums of money and the popular picture of President Johnson.

Many who have read "The Death of a President" insist that it treats Mr. Johnson unsympathetically, and that it tells of the Kennedy's hostility to him. Some of Mr. Kennedy's advisers believe that publication of the book could further strain the delicate political relationship between the Senator and the President.

It is known that the Kennedy family feels there is more urgency in settling the disagreement with Look than the one with Harper & Row. If Mrs. Kennedy is upheld in the hearing Dec. 27, Look will be forced to cancel the issue scheduled to carry the beginning of the serialization.

A Look executive estimated that the cancellation could cost Cowles Communications, Inc., the publisher of Look, from \$3-million to \$5-million in advertising and circulation revenues.

If Mrs. Kennedy is upheld in the hearing and Look and Harper & Row appeal, Mrs. Kennedy could be asked to post an indemnity bond equal to Look's loss. If Look won the appeal, it would collect the bond.

However, the amount of any bond would be determined by Saul S. Streit, the ranking justice on the State Supreme Court, who will conduct the hearing. Look, which is expected to ask for the indemnity bond, would have to produce evidence of the size of the loss it would incur if the issue was canceled.

No matter what the size of



Associated Press Wirephoto  
Senator Edward M. Kennedy discussing book in Boston.

the bond, Mrs. Kennedy would almost certainly get a bonding company to post it. If she was upheld later in an appeal taken by Look and Harper & Row, she would be required to pay only a premium to the bonding company. This, presumably, would be offset by an award for damages.

Mrs. Kennedy's suit contends that Mr. Manchester violated a memorandum of understanding that he signed with Robert Kennedy on March 26, 1964. The memorandum specified that the book would not be published before Nov. 22, 1968, and that it must be approved by Mrs. Kennedy and Robert Kennedy.

In return, the Kennedy family agreed that it would cooperate with no other authors in stories of the assassination. This was done, Mrs. Kennedy says, so that there could be one true and undistorted book about the death of President Kennedy.

### Other Writers Approached

It was learned yesterday that Mr. Manchester had not been the first choice of the Kennedy family to write the book. Mrs. Kennedy first approached Theodore H. White, who had written "The Making of a President," the story of her husband's 1960 campaign. Mr. White, however, thought the stipulations in the contract, were too restrictive.

The Kennedys then suggested to Walter Lord, who writes popular histories, that he write the

book. He, too, decided against it.

The book is virtually certain to be a best seller. Look has paid \$665,000 for the serialization rights and has recovered nearly half of that amount from the sale of the European rights.

Furthermore, it was learned yesterday that the Book of the Month Club will pay Harper & Row \$250,000 for the right to distribute "The Death of a President" to its members.

This would be divided equally between Mr. Manchester and Harper & Row, although Mr. Manchester would be required to give 10 per cent of his share to his agent, Don Congdon of the Harold Matson Company.

Harper & Row gave Mr. Manchester an advance of \$40,000 when he began work on "The Death of a President." This was to be deducted from his share of the royalties. Harper & Row said that its first printing of the book would total only 100,000 copies.

However, it has been learned that the publisher will increase the size of the first printing to about 250,000 copies. Cass Canfield, the chairman of the executive committee of Harper & Row, said on Monday that all of the company's profits, "except for a small return" on the first printing, would be sent to the Kennedy Library in Cambridge, Mass.

### Memorandum Drawn Up

Meanwhile, attorneys for Mrs. Kennedy drew up a memorandum of law that they plan to file in court today. This will cite the legal precedents for her suit and outline the legal basis for it.

Mrs. Kennedy is being represented by Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison.

The defendants in the suit have until tomorrow to answer Mrs. Kennedy's charges. One informed source said that Look may cite the clause in the memorandum between Mr. Manchester and Senator Kennedy that says it is not the intention of either the Senator or of Mrs. Kennedy "to prevent the sale of serial option rights to a responsible publisher."

The source said that Look may argue about the meaning of serial option rights. The phrase, he said, is seldom found in a contract with an author. He said the memorandum was drawn by Senator Kennedy and that the Senator was inexperienced in this sort of contract.

Look, he indicated, may argue that the contract allowed Mr. Manchester to dispose of the serialization rights as he wanted,