

Post 10/7/66

Cerf Details Dispute on JFK Book

CLEVELAND, Oct. 6 (UPI) —Bennett Cerf, board chairman of the Random House publishing firm, gave his version yesterday of a controversy surrounding the forthcoming publication of a book on the assassination of President Kennedy.

Cerf, speaking at the Town Hall lecture series of Higbee's Auditorium, said Mrs. Kennedy objected to the book Random House expects to publish — "The Day Kennedy Was Shot." The author is Jim Bishop.

Bishop has written "The Day Lincoln Was Shot" and "A Day in the Life of President Kennedy."

The Kennedy family has chosen William Manchester to write the story. His book, "The Death of a President," is scheduled for publication by Harper and Row.

Cerf said Mrs. Kennedy called him and asked his company not to publish Bishop's book. He quoted Mrs. Kennedy as saying, "How much money does that man want to make out of our personal tragedy?"

"I can see the Kennedys' side of it," Cerf said. "But, of course, there is also the question whether anyone can give exclusive rights to one person to write an important bit of history."