

# Magazine goes ahead on Kennedy book printing

NEW YORK, Saturday.

WILLIAM MANCHESTER assured the publishers of Look magazine, in a written agreement last August, that the Kennedy family had approved the publication of his book, "The Death of a President." An action will be heard on December 27 in which Mrs John F. Kennedy will seek to stop publication.

But Look magazine is going ahead with printing of the first instalment of the book, the editor William B. Arthur said today. "Pending the court decision we are proceeding with our plans to publish on January 10," he added.

Mrs Kennedy had a two-hour meeting with representatives of Look magazine today.

After she had left, her lawyer said that Look had just given her access to the disputed material. It was on Friday that Mrs Kennedy filed a suit in the State Supreme Court to prevent the serialisation and to bar Harper and Row from publishing the book this spring.

In her affidavit, Mrs Kennedy said that she had not read "Death of a President." She also said that Cowles Communications, Inc., publishers of Look, had not shown any of her representatives the material it planned to use.

Her lawyer said: "One of the problems was that we did not have access to the material. Judge Peck gave us access and Mrs Kennedy came along to look at it. I am studying it now."

Mr Manchester is said to be convinced that he cannot make any more changes in his book without betraying his understanding of history and his interpretation of the late President's attitude to important events. He is satisfied, according to sources close to him, that he has already made all the changes and deletions required of his contractual and ethical obligations to the Kennedy family.

He was selected by the family, in 1964, to do the book on the assassination in the interests of "accuracy and good taste." The family reserved the right to approve the manuscript before



William Manchester:  
'No more changes'

was impossible for either Mrs Kennedy or Senator Robert Kennedy to read it, but the Senator said that because of his brother's respect for me as an historian they approved publication.

"I felt my own judgment, or that of any one person, was not a strong enough safeguard against possible lapses in taste, so I asked five people who were personal friends of President Kennedy to read it and make suggestions. I was the final arbiter, though I accepted most of their suggestions, and they have strengthened the book." It is understood that Professor Arthur M. Schlesinger was one of these five "reviewers."

When Senator Kennedy announced the project he said that the book might be out three or four years after the tragedy. "At no point," says Manchester, "did anyone contemplate publication after 1968. But 1968 is a presidential campaign year, so it did not seem the best time. Then there has been this rash of books —by Mark Lane and Epstein and others—and we felt we could render a real service by publishing now."

Originally, there was a "memorandum of understanding" between Robert Kennedy and Manchester, and Mrs Kennedy's lawyers claim that this document gives Mrs Kennedy rights of approval of the completed work. The US publishers of the book, Harper & Row, Look magazine, which owns the international serial rights, and Manchester contend that Mrs Kennedy was not a party to the "memorandum of understanding."

They claim further that in July, this year, Robert Kennedy explicitly stated that no member of the Kennedy family would place any obstacle in the way of publication in 1967. To meet objections raised by the family in the last half of this year, Look reduced the number of instalments and made revisions of the text. Harper & Row say that, for the same reason, they have made four separate revisions of the proofs.

Manchester said: "None of the interviews was easy. Often, I found that a principal figure had thrust his memories into a remote corner of his mind. Bringing them out was almost unendurable. President Johnson is an example. Twice, in May, 1964, and April, 1965, the President agreed to receive me and go through everything. Then he found he could not do it. We solved the dilemma by written questions and written answers."

The serial rights in "The Death of a President" have been acquired by the Sunday Times.

He does not consider that the book is prejudicial to President Johnson though it has been reported that Senator Kennedy is concerned lest the book be construed as a display of antipathy by him towards the President.

The New York Times reports that Mr Bill D. Moyers, Johnson's Press secretary, has read the passages dealing with the President "who undoubtedly knows about them."

It is expected that the publishers will contend that Mrs Kennedy and Senator Kennedy gave their permission to publish in a telegram that Kennedy sent to Manchester last summer.

Senator Kennedy, however, contends in an affidavit that the telegram did not supersede the original contract, stating that the book would not be published until November 1968.

Mrs Kennedy's suggestions are reported to be mainly concerned with phrasing, rather than with deletions.

If all the Kennedy family suggestions were followed, the deletions in the Look serials would run to 60 per cent. of the text and the magazine excerpts would become unusable.

Look's publishers have said that if the court hearing goes against them there will not be time to publish a substitute issue; if an issue has to be omitted they will lose more than three million dollars (£1,070,000).

*Messages from Evelyn Irons and New York Times correspondents.*

### Five 'reviewers'

In London, before Mrs Kennedy's action, Mr Manchester said to the Sunday Times: "No member of the Kennedy family, to the best of my knowledge, has seen the book. It was such a painful subject that it

publication.

The 44-year-old author has already acceded to a number of changes and deletions requested by the Kennedy family in the 300,000-word book and the four-part serialisation of 80,000 words for Look.

Mr Manchester is also said to believe that Mrs Kennedy is inclined to exaggerate her contribution to the book. He had 10 hours of taped interviews with Mrs Kennedy but censored much of this material voluntarily as "an unwarranted invasion of privacy."