

Bulletin 1-17-67

Many Changes in Disputed Kennedy Book Involve Slain President's Two Children

New York, Jan. 17—(AP)—Many changes made in settling the Kennedy book controversy out of court with Harper & Row involved what the late President's two children said and did in the immediate period following his assassination, it was learned today.

A source close to the Kennedy family said that in all roughly 6,000 to 8,000 words figured in the changes in William Manchester's book, "The Death of a President."

"Many changes involved the children and their reaction in the period of the assassination and what they said and did," the source said. "It was nothing embarrassing, but it was very sensitive and could be difficult for the children in the future."

An official of Harper & Row said that the changes involve a cumulative total of some eight pages out of 654.

Mrs. John F. Kennedy's law-suit to block publication of the book was withdrawn yesterday when Harper & Row and Manchester agreed to delete or modify certain personal passages of

concern to President Kennedy's widow.

Way Cleared

The settlement, which came after nearly a month of negotiations, clears the way for Harper & Row to go ahead with its scheduled publication of a hard-cover edition in April and a paperback edition to be published by Dell Books at least a year later.

In settling the current controversy, a few personal passages of concern to Mrs. Kennedy have been deleted or modified by mutual agreement of all parties," said Cass Canfield, chairman of the executive committee of Harper & Row.

"The changes that have been made involving a cumulative total of some eight pages in a book of 654 pages of text have affected neither its historical interest nor its narrative power," Canfield said in a statement. He added:

"In our opinion, the book as we will publish it in April based upon access to unique sources

account of the fateful days from November 20 to 25, 1963."

Author's Comment

Manchester said "out-of-court settlements are often called 'compromises.'

"In this case," he said, "a more accurate description would be a 'resolution of misunderstandings.'"

Manchester, wearing a bright PT-109 tie clip of the type made famous by President Kennedy, read a prepared statement to a news conference.

He declined to answer questions afterward. He left almost immediately after reading his statement, describing himself as a "very sick man" who was under doctor's orders.

Manchester spent two weeks in a Connecticut hospital during the negotiations.

Not Political

In his statement, Manchester said:

"None of the deletions which have been made during the last few weeks are political in character. Essentially, what has happened is this:

"Certain passages which she

(Mrs. Kennedy) considered personal were pointed out to me, and I therefore struck them out. I retained all material which I considered vital to the historical record. An attorney acting on Mrs. Kennedy's instructions then initialed each page of the final text, and so did I.

"I wish to reaffirm my voluntary pledge to safeguard source material which I gathered during the project. All tapes, documents, exhibits, transcriptions of my 1,000 interviews and my manuscript will be catalogued and then placed under seal for 100 years. This material will be available to no one without my written permission."

The 10 hours of taped conversation that Manchester collected from Mrs. Kennedy will be returned to her to be placed under seal at the Kennedy Memorial Library in Cambridge, Mass. Much of the material to which she objected was contained in these interviews.

Johnson Letters

Another point in the agreement prohibits the publication of letters from President and Mrs. Johnson to Mrs. Kennedy and the Kennedy children, Caroline and John, without the express consent of the President.

The source close to the Kennedy family said John and Caroline each received one letter

from the President immediately after the assassination. Later, both the President and Mrs. Johnson wrote Mrs. Kennedy.

"They were brief warm notes," the source said. "Very pleasant. To the children, they were very nice letters about their father, letters to keep in the future. There is no problem with the content. But the letters belong to the writer both legally and morally."

No Endorsement

In a statement issued on behalf of Mrs. Kennedy by associates of the family, it was disclosed that another part of the agreement stipulates that on the title page of each copy of the book there will appear the following words:

"Harper & Row wishes to

make it clear that neither Mrs. John F. Kennedy nor Sen. Robert F. Kennedy has in any way approved or endorsed the material appearing in this book. The author, William Manchester, and the publishers assume complete responsibility."

It was learned that the Kennedys had attempted to persuade Manchester to delete or modify many passages of a political nature which they considered unfair to President Johnson and inaccurate. The book is said to depict Mr. Johnson in an unfavorable light.

Without mentioning Mr. Johnson by name, the statement on behalf of Mrs. Kennedy said:

"Many of the changes recommended in this connection were refused by the author, apparently on the ground that he was entitled to his own view of his-

tory.

"When we were not successful in getting the author and publisher to agree with these changes, we and the lawyers in the controversy felt these points should not properly be made a point of legal suppression."

Settlement with Look

Mrs. Kennedy had brought suit against Manchester, Harper & Row and Look magazine at the same time. An out-of-court settlement with Look five days after the suit was filed allowed the magazine to go ahead on schedule with its 60,000-word four-part serialization. The second instalment in the Look series is scheduled to appear next Tuesday.

The Look dispute was resolved after the magazine had agreed to delete or modify passages amounting to about 1,600 words.

The source close to the Kennedy family said the agreement with Harper & Row involved similar changes but there were many more since the book runs about 300,000 words.

Meanwhile, Henri Nannen, publisher of the German magazine Stern, rejected another request to delete parts of the serialization. Stern has begun publishing Look's serialization of the book without the deletions that Look agreed to. The latest request was made by Dr. Ulrich Lohmar, chairman of the Bundestag Committee for Science, Culture and Publication.