

Kennedy Book Publishers Say Talks Continue

Manchester Denies Breach of Faith, Defends Publication

NEW YORK (AP) — Spokesmen for two publishers involved in the dispute with the Kennedy family over publication of the book, "The Death of a President," said today that new efforts are being made to settle the matter out of court.

The disclosure followed a statement by William Man-

The Text of William Manchester's Statement. Page A-2

chester, author of the book, denying that he had broken faith with Mrs. John F. Kennedy or that he had taken advantage of her confidence in him. The book is about the assassination of President Kennedy.

"There are continuing efforts to patch things up," said a spokesman for Harper & Row, Publishers Inc., which plans to bring out the 300,000-word book in April.

"Every effort will be made to work things out," the spokesman said.

Asked if the aim might be to reach some understanding on the separation of a deeply personal matter, which Mrs. Kennedy seeks to keep out of the book, from what is considered history, the spokesman replied: "I think that is pretty accurate."

"There's a Telephone"

A spokesman for Look magazine, which plans a four-part, 80,000 word serialization of the book starting with the Jan. 10 issue, said:

"Discussions between the lawyers representing the two sides in the dispute are continuing. They are not necessarily meetings per se. There's a telephone, you know."

In finally speaking out on the controversy, Manchester issued a statement through Look magazine, saying:

"It has been said that my

work is being published prematurely and that magazine serialization was not contemplated by the Kennedy family. This is not so. In the summer of 1966, authorization was given by the family for publication of the book in early 1967, to be preceded by serialization in Look magazine.

"It has been said that I have broken faith with Mrs. Kennedy: that I took advantage of her

See BOOK, Page A-6

Continued From Page A-1
confidence in me and that I recorded too faithfully her words and emotions. I do not believe this to be so.

My President

"Mrs. Kennedy gave me 10 hours of interviews: I did not, indeed could not, have conducted these interviews without her voluntary cooperation. Mrs. Kennedy herself did not ask to see the manuscript and still hasn't. If she had, I would, of course, have given it to her.

"John Kennedy was my president. To suggest that I would dishonor his memory or my association with him is both cruel and unjust. His standards of excellence have guided me throughout this work.

"I believe John Kennedy, who was himself an historian, would have wanted his countrymen to know the truth of those terrible days, and I have dedicated myself for nearly three years to reliving and reconstructing them so that the truth could be faithfully and accurately recorded."

A hearing on Mrs. Kennedy's suit to block publication is set for Dec. 27. The defendants — Manchester; Harper & Row and Cowles Communications Inc., publishers of Look — are scheduled to file written briefs Thursday in reply to the suit.

In her suit, Mrs. Kennedy charged breach of contract, invasion of privacy and infringement of her copyright by unauthorized use of her name in advertisements and promotion. She said in her suit: "I am shocked that Mr. Manchester would exploit the emotional state in which I recounted my recollections to him early in 1964."

Robert F. Kennedy submitted a supporting five-page affidavit as part of the court papers. Both he and Mrs. Kennedy contended that in return for her help in preparing the manuscript through the taped interviews, Manchester agreed not to publish until he obtained Mrs. Kennedy's consent as to the mode, time and text of publication. They said Manchester signed such an agreement.

Alleged incompetence or neg-

BOOK

Manchester Denies He Broke Faith

lect among those who guarded President Kennedy is reported in detail by the book, the New York Times said. It quoted an unidentified person in the publishing field—but not involved in the suit—as saying the manuscript gives names of allegedly derelict Dallas policemen, agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Secret Service men.

The book also discloses, the source said, factionalism in the Secret Service after the assassination, friction between President Johnson and Robert F. Kennedy about when the President should deliver his first message to a joint session of Congress and heated bickering about whether President Kennedy should be buried in Massachusetts or at Arlington National Cemetery.

Hospital Incident

The Nashville Tennessean, in a dispatch from its Washington bureau, quoted an unnamed reader of the Manchester manuscript as saying it tells of Mrs. Kennedy's wrestling with a nurse after President Kennedy was taken to Parkland Hospital in Dallas.

"The nurse 'would not allow her into the room with her husband at the hospital until a doctor told the nurse to let her pass,' the Tennessean quoted the reader as saying.

The editor of the Tennessean

is John Seigenthaler, who was one of several Kennedy confidants who reportedly discussed and read the manuscript earlier this year. Seigenthaler served for two years as administrative assistant to Sen. Robert Kennedy when the latter was U.S. attorney general.

Senator Kennedy, in Sun Valley, Idaho, on a skiing vacation, said that what Mrs. Kennedy "objected to were the kind of intimate personal details that she otherwise would have obviously kept to herself," the New York Post reported. "It was one thing to be on tape for historians. It was something else to have it written down for you to see . . . the parts that are being objected to would really only affect about four pages."

The story said an unnamed magazine editor speculated that Mrs. Kennedy particularly objected to passages describing how she tried to protect the body of her mortally wounded husband and did not want anyone to take him away from her.

Another section, according to this account, tells how Mrs. Kennedy got John Jr. to salute his dead father during the President's funeral—a gesture that moved millions watching the event on television.

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., meanwhile, charged in

a statement that Manchester "planned to go ahead in violation of the word of his agreement, the spirit of his arrangements and despite the pain he knows it would cause Mrs. Kennedy.

Moyers' Denial

White House Press Secretary Bill D. Moyers denied a report that he had read sections of the book and that he was assumed to have relayed his impressions to President Johnson, who reportedly is presented in an unfavorable light in the book.

"I have not read the book and I have not read anything to the President," Moyers said. He said that Johnson has seen no part of the manuscript.

Mrs. Kennedy's attorney in the suit, Simon H. Rifkind, said again today, "No one has talked to me about settlement: I know nothing about any efforts at settlement."

Asked whether he thought Harper & Row and Look might be trying to iron out the dispute, he said, "That's possible but I don't know about it."

Earlier, a Look spokesman said there had been "communication" between the opposing camps yesterday but that he did not believe Rifkind had talked to Look.

The spokesman said the magazine is still going ahead with plans to publish on Jan. 10.

TEXT OF STATEMENT

Author Pleads for Book

NEW YORK, Dec. 19 (AP)—Following is the statement issued by William Manchester, author of "The Death of a President."

On July 29, 1966, I was informed by a member of the Kennedy family that because of President Kennedy's "respect" for me as "a historian and a reporter . . . members of the Kennedy family will place no obstacle in the way of publication" of my work.

I believe that I am now—in December of 1966—the same historian and reporter that I was in 1962 when President Kennedy expressed his confidence in me.

I feel that I am the same, yet clearly circumstances are not. A legal obstacle in the way of publication of my book, "The Death of a President."

I had hoped my book would be allowed to speak for itself, and I would not have to speak for it. This is no longer possible. The integrity of my book and my own honesty as a writer and a person have been attacked.

In life John Kennedy belonged to all Americans. His cruel murder deprived us all. I cannot help but feel that some of the

present bitterness comes from the dark nightmare of his death and the impotence in the face of death which we felt then and feel now.

John Kennedy was my President. To suggest that I would dishonor his memory or my association with him is both cruel and unjust. His standards of excellence have guided me throughout this work.

I believe John Kennedy, who was himself an historian, would have wanted his countrymen to know the truth of those terrible days, and I have dedicated myself for nearly three years to reliving and reconstructing them so that the truth could be faithfully and accurately recorded.

It has been said that my work is being published prematurely and that magazine serialization was not contemplated by the Kennedy family. This is not so. In the summer of 1966, authorization was given by the family for publication of the book in early 1967, to be preceded by serialization in *Look* magazine.

It has been said that I have broken faith with Mrs. Kennedy: That I took advantage of her confidence in me and that I recorded too faithfully her words and emotions. I do not believe

this to be so. Mrs. Kennedy asked me to write this book. I did not seek the opportunity. Mrs. Kennedy gave me 10 hours of interviews: I did not, indeed could not, have conducted these interviews without her voluntary cooperation. Mrs. Kennedy herself did not ask to see the manuscript and still hasn't. If she had, I would, of course, have given it to her.

Instead, the Kennedy family asked to have the book read by a number of friends and advisers. This was done, and appropriate changes were made in consultation with these distinguished friends. Mrs. Kennedy asked to have yet another friend read the book: This too was done and yet more changes were made.

However, in the last analysis, this is my book. Neither Mrs. Kennedy nor any member of the Kennedy family nor anyone else is in any way responsible for my research or the content of my work. It is my responsibility, and I am confident that my book can withstand any objective test—particularly the test of time. I ask only that it be given the chance.