

Book Fight: Final Agreement Seems to Be Near

By MARTIN McLAUGHLIN

The battle over publication of the controversial book "Death of a President" appeared to be nearing an end last night, as Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy and book publisher Harper & Row jointly announced an understanding.

Under the stipulation, Mrs. Kennedy will not press her Supreme Court motion for a temporary injunction stopping Harper & Row until April 1, even though there is no court order requiring the delay.

A source close to the Kennedy family said the agreement showed "give and take on both sides," and added: "I think they're close to (a full) agreement."

Providing no full agreement has been reached beforehand, the parties stipulated to request a trial date to settle the issues in mid-January.

Follows Court Move

The announcement came shortly after 6 P.M., only hours after Harper & Row made the unexpected move of requesting a hearing in Supreme Court tomorrow. Observers interpreted the request as an indication that the publisher was ready to argue the matter in court and abandon efforts to reach an out-of-court settlement. At the same time, counsel for

ailing author William Manchester requested—and received—a postponement of the hearing on Mrs. Kennedy's demand, as applied to him, until Jan. 16.

Mrs. Kennedy has objected to certain passages in the 300,000-word book written by Manchester about the assassination of her late husband. Similar objections relating to a serialization of the manuscript by Look magazine were settled out of court with Look publisher, Cowles Publications.

A Kennedy Statement

A spokesman for Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, brother-in-law of Mrs. Kennedy, said the point of the understanding announced yesterday was to avoid tomorrow's court hearing.

The statement said: "Representatives of Harper & Row and of Mrs. John F. Kennedy have been meeting for the past several days. They have been making

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Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy leaves Antigua, B.W.I., airport after flight from New York with John Jr. (UPI Cablefoto)

(partly hidden behind post), Caroline (left), and one of her friends, C. Nelson.

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steady progress toward an amicable settlement.

"The unfortunate illness of the author, William Manchester, has made it necessary to continue the discussions over a longer period than was anticipated. Both parties have agreed to continue consultation with Mr. Manchester and his representatives, as well as the negotiations among themselves for the adjustment of outstanding differences.

"The sole object of this arrangement is to give all parties, including the author, sufficient time for thorough discussion."

Jackie and Children Start Antigua Holiday

St. John's, Antigua, Dec. 27 (UPI)—Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy, her two children, a child friend and a governess started a two-week vacation here today.

★ They were here as guests of the Paul Mellon family at the Mill Reef Club on this British Caribbean resort island.

The Kennedys arrived late last night by air.—Other passengers disembarked first. Then came Mrs. Kennedy, her daughter Caroline and a friend identified only as C. Nelson, John F. Kennedy Jr., and governess Francoise Geizendorf.

Private cars drove onto the runway to pick up the party. Mrs. Kennedy wore a bright orange shift. The children were dressed in summer clothing.

Manchester Better: A Vacation Prescribed

Middletown, Conn., Dec. 27 (AP) — William Manchester's physician has recommended that the author take a vacation after leaving the hospital, where he is being treated for a slight case of pneumonia, a hospital spokesman said today.

Whether the writer would take the advice of his doctor, F. Erwin Tracy was not known.

Manchester, 44, whose manuscript on the assassination of President Kennedy has created legal and literary turmoil was taken off the Middlesex Memorial Hospital's critical list today.

He was admitted to the hospital early yesterday with a temperature of 104, but Tracy said Manchester responded well to treatment.

Both Mrs. Kennedy and Sen. Robert F. Kennedy (D-N.Y.) have sent get-well telegrams to Manchester.