Kennedy Book Trial Date Set

NEW YORK (AP)—The trial of Mrs. John F. Kennedy's suit against Harper & Row to block publication of the book, "The Death of a President," has been set for Jan. 18. Observers close to the dispute still expect, however, that it will be settled out of court.

State Supreme Court Justice Saul S. Streit set the date yesterday after author William Manchester and publisher Harper & Row filed separate but similar answers to Mrs. Kendey's suit. Streit had said last week he would hear the case against Manchester on Jan. 16.

After conferring with their attorneys, Streit announced, "The story is brief. Negotiations have not completed."

He said discussions aimed at reaching a settlement were continuing, then added: "In the event negotations are not completed, the parties will go to trial."

Mrs. Kennedy seeks a permanent injunction against publication of the book unless the author and publisher agree to delete some material she deems too personal.

Harper & Row plans to publish Manchester's 300,000word book o nthe 1963 assassination of President Kennedy in April.

Look magazine, which has serial rights to the book, agreed to certain deletions in an out-of-court settlement and begins a four-part 60,000-word series in its issue going on sale next week.