

Jackie Allows Book Serial

NEW YORK (AP) — Mrs. John F. Kennedy settled her lawsuit against Look magazine out of court Wednesday night, and agreed to its serialization of the book, "The Death of a President."

Look agreed to remove or modify passages in the book relating to the personal life of the former First Lady and her two children.

The settlement permits Look to go ahead with plans to publish a four-part serialization of author William Manchester's book, beginning next month.

A spokesman quoted Gardner Cowles, editorial chairman of

Look, as saying they agreed to changes involving only 1,600 words and which "in no way affected the historical accuracy or completeness of the book."

A statement in Mrs. Kennedy's name said:

"Since every passage of a personal nature under contention for several months was either deleted by Look or changed to her satisfaction, Mrs. Kennedy has withdrawn her suit.

"I have been told there are historical inaccuracies and unfair references in this book. That they have been written is unfortunate. However, it was clear before bringing this suit

that historical judgments, even if inaccurate, could not properly be suppressed by a court of law.

"In time, history will deal fairly and justly with this period."

William Attwood, editor in chief of Cowles Publications, Inc., said: "We are satisfied."

The settlement with Look may set a pattern for settlement of Mrs. Kennedy's lawsuit against Manchester and his publishers, Harper & Row.

At Middletown, Conn., Manchester was said to be unavailable for comment. Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, vacationing in Sun Valley, Idaho, refused comment.

However, Simon Rifkind, Mrs. Kennedy's lawyer, said Manchester "apparently approves the settlement with Look."

In advance, Harper & Row had expressed willingness to go along with any settlement reached with Look.

Rifkind indicated negotiations would be undertaken shortly with Manchester and his publishers. He did not set a time.

Look's earlier deadline had led to a concentration of negotiations with the magazine.

"First things first," was the way Rifkind put it.

Mrs. Kennedy's suit against Manchester, Look and Harper & Row had been scheduled for a court hearing next Tuesday in Manhattan. At that time, she was to have sought an injunction

against publication of the text as written.

Look plans to publish the first part of a four-part serialization of 60,000 words from the book in its Jan. 24 issue, due on newsstands Jan. 10. Harper & Row has arranged to bring out the full, 300,000-word hard-cover book in April.

Publishing sources in New York said that regardless of how the suit comes out, there almost certainly will be contraband versions of the book containing all of the intimate personal detail which Mrs. Kennedy found objectionable.

A spokesman for Harper & Row surmised that duplicates of

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the text were made surreptitiously while 25 copies were circulating among prospective bidders prior to Look's purchase of the rights.

The spokesman said "almost certainly" a facsimile of the text has reached outlaw publishers on Formosa who have repeatedly pirated American books.

A Look executive said he knew that "at least one copy" was made while Look's editors were considering the purchase of the serialization rights and commented: "This is the age of the copy machine. Any astute office boy can ruin you."