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LBJ-Kennedys Episode

NEW HAVEN, Conn., Dec. 15 (AP)—Bennett Cerf, publisher and television personality, was quoted today as saying he read an unedited manuscript of a controversial book on the death of President John F. Kennedy and that it described some "unbelievable things that happened after the assassination."

The Yale Daily News, the student newspaper, said Cerf told a banquet audience at Yale's Pierson College last night that the unedited manuscript of William Manchester's "Death of a President" described an incident involving the presidential plane at Love Airfield in Texas after the assassination.

The student newspaper quoted Cerf, chairman of the board of Random House, as saying that Mrs. Kennedy and the late President's aides remained at the hospital in Dallas while then Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson and his entourage went to the airfield. Two airplanes, the presidential and vice presidential planes, were parked there. The newspaper voted Cerf as saying:

Shocked and Infuriated

"The airplanes were identical in construction and furnishing . . . the Johnson party reached the airfield first and, knowing President Kennedy was dead, boarded the presidential jet. When the Kennedys returned to the airfield with the coffin and discovered that the presidential plane was already occupied, they were shocked and infuriated."

Cerf said in New York today, "I was under the impression I was talking off the record." He confirmed that he had made the remarks and said he considered Manchester's work "a wonderful book."

Call Not Denied

The Yale Daily News also quoted Cerf as saying the book relates how Mr. Johnson telephoned the then Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy from Texas, asking Kennedy's advice whether he should be sworn in as Chief Executive in Dallas or in Washington.

Cerf was quoted as saying that Kennedy now denies he received such a call.

A Kennedy aide said today,

"He doesn't deny that he received that call. The incident is described at length in the book and the Senator does not deny receiving the telephone call."

In New York, conflicting reports circulated today as to whether Senator Kennedy and Mrs. Kennedy stand together in

her lawsuit to stop publication of the book.

"There is no conceivable conflict," an aide to the Senator said. "He doesn't oppose the suit."

However, a source closely involved in the battle said, "Our lawyers are getting strong indications that Senator Kennedy

wants to get out and doesn't think it (the suit) was a good idea, to begin with."

Former Federal Judge Simon Rifkind, who represents Mrs. Kennedy in the court action, said, "I have talked with Sen. Kennedy from time to time. I have the impression that he supports Mrs. Kennedy."

Rifkind said he hopes to file

Cited

the complaint in the State Supreme Court at least by Saturday and possibly Friday.

He said the suit is based primarily on the contention that Mrs. Kennedy and Sen. Kennedy have not approved publication of the book as agreed to in a "memorandum of understanding" between Manchester and the Kennedys.