



Associated Press

MRS. JOHN F. KENNEDY

Widow Says Agreement Was Broken

Court Summons Publishers of Story On Assassination

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NEW YORK, Dec. 16

Jacqueline Kennedy filed suit today to bar publication in book or magazine form of the controversial account of her husband's death by author William Manchester.

The suit, filed in New York Supreme Court, seeks an immediate and permanent injunction prohibiting publication. Judge Saul Streit ordered the defendants—Harper & Row book publishers, Cowles Communications, Inc., publishers of Look Magazine, and Manchester—to appear at a show-cause hearing Dec. 27.

Mrs. Kennedy charges in her complaint that the defendants violated a written agreement with Manchester giving her and Sen. Robert F. Kennedy approval rights prior to publication of any part of Manchester's book, "Death of a President."

Press Run Begun

Look Magazine has already begun its press run on the first of four excerpts from the book, to run in its issue of Jan. 10. The entire book is scheduled for publication by Harper & Row in April. Spokesmen for both organizations said today they have not changed their plans, but had no other comment.

The public controversy over the book began last week when it was learned that Mrs. Kennedy objected to certain passages based on a series of interviews she had granted Manchester. She announced Wednesday she would take legal action to prohibit what she called "shocking exploitation" of her emotional state

at the time of the interviews.

Today's complaint contains a number of supporting documents, some never before made public, including affidavits by Mrs. Kennedy and Robert Kennedy, various letters exchanged between the parties, and a copy of the

See KENNEDY, A4, Col. 1

Partial texts of affidavits submitted by Mrs. John F. Kennedy and Robert F. Kennedy in book suit.

Page A4.

March 26, 1964, agreement between Manchester and the Kennedys.

Neither Mrs. Kennedy nor the Senator appeared in court today.

Crux of Dispute

The 1964 agreement is the crux of the dispute and is the legal basis on which Mrs. Kennedy's attorneys are proceeding. In the copy provided with today's complaint, Item 3 of the agreement reads: "The completed manuscript shall be reviewed by Mrs. John F. Kennedy and Robert F. Kennedy, and the final text shall not be published unless and until approved by them."

Mrs. Kennedy says in her affidavit, "I have not given my consent or approval to any publication of Manchester's manuscript." She adds that both Cowles and Harper had been repeatedly advised of her rights by herself, Sen. Kennedy and her attorneys.

Publication of the unapproved manuscript, Mrs. Kennedy states, "will result in precisely the sensationalism and commercialism which we — Robert F. Kennedy and I — sought so strenuously to avoid. The threatened publication is in total disregard of my rights and, if it goes forward, will utterly destroy them."

Manchester was chosen to write the history of the Kennedy assassination by Mrs. Kennedy, who had admired a previous book by Manchester about the late President. He was given exclusive access to files and was permitted to interview key figures in the tragedy, including Mrs. Kennedy and Robert Kennedy.

Claims Approval

In going ahead with the publication, Manchester has maintained that he received Kennedy family approval both verbally and in a telegram from Robert Kennedy in July of this year.

Sen. Kennedy, in his affidavit included in the complaint, flatly denies this. "I categorically state," he says, "that at no time did I ever give my approval or consent to the text of the manuscript, to any publication thereof, or to any time of publication; nor did I

ever say or do anything from which the defendants could reasonably have believed that I did."

Kennedy said he sent the July telegram because he had been informed that "Manchester was becoming ill from an obsession with the thought that the book might never be published."

The telegram, quoted in its entirety in the affidavit says, in part:

"As this is going to be the subject matter of a book and since Mr. Manchester in his research had access to more information and sources than any other writer, members of the Kennedy family will place no obstacle in the way of publication of his work.

"However, if Mr. Manchester's account is published in segments or excerpts, I would expect that incidents would not be taken out of context or summarized in any way which might distort the facts of or the events relating to President Kennedy's death."