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Manchester Says Charge Is 'Both Cruel and Unjust'

Denies He Broke Faith With Mrs. Kennedy by Use of Interview Data

Text of Manchester statement will be found on Page 31.

By DOUGLAS ROBINSON

William Manchester, the author of the disputed book on the assassination of President Kennedy, said yesterday that the former President as a historian "would have wanted his countrymen to know the truth of those terrible days."

"John Kennedy was my President," Mr. Manchester said in a statement. "To suggest that I would dishonor his memory or my association with him is both cruel and unjust."

It was the first statement issued by the author since it became known that Mrs. Kennedy opposed publication of the book, "The Death of a President." Last Friday, she filed suit in State Supreme Court to block its publication. A hearing is scheduled Dec. 27.

In her suit, Mrs. Kennedy said that Mr. Manchester had exploited the emotional state she was in after the death of her husband by his use of personal recollections obtained in 10 hours of tape-recorded conversations.

At stake in the controversy are not only the domestic and foreign book and magazine rights, but the possibility of pas-

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Manuscript Is Reported to Allege Neglect by Guards in Dallas

By MURRAY SCHUMACH

Many examples of alleged incompetence or neglect among those who guarded President Kennedy the day he was killed are said to be contained in detail in William Manchester's book "The Death of a President."

A man who now has the 1,300-page manuscript said yesterday that the book gives names of allegedly derelict Dallas policemen, agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Secret Service men in appraising the assassination in Dallas, Nov. 22, 1963.

Also in the book, he said, are stories about factionalism in the Secret Service after the assassination, friction between President Johnson and Robert F. Kennedy about when the President should deliver his first message to a joint session of Congress and heated bickering about whether President Kennedy should be buried in Massachusetts or at Arlington National Cemetery.

The man who has the manuscript is in the publishing business, but is not involved in the suit brought by Mrs. John F. Kennedy to block the publication of the book by Harper & Row, Publishers, Inc., in March or April, and a four-part serial by Look magazine scheduled to begin Jan. 10. "This book," said

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ALLEGED NEGLECT OF GUARDS CITED

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the man who asked to remain unidentified, "is full of the ineptitude of those who were supposed to protect the President.

"It shows that the F.B.I. men were too busy looking for places in the parade. He names everybody and he has the quotes to back it up."

The source describes the book's account of the split in the Secret Service as follows:

"It broke out shortly after the assassination. Some of the men were convinced their obligation was to the murdered President. Others were equally certain their first duty was to his successor.

It was one of these Secret Service groups that ordered Mr. Johnson aboard Air Force One, where he was sworn in as President and flown, along with the widow, the body of her husband and Presidential aides, to Washington.

The friction between Robert Kennedy and President Johnson in the days after the assassination was said to have arisen from the inability to establish direct communication. The two men were constantly using intermediaries to make arrangements that ranged from the routine to the crucial.

2 Examples Cited

Two examples assertedly

cited in the book were the desire of the new President to use space in the secretarial offices of his predecessor and his wish to set a date to deliver a message before Congress.

The sources continued his report of the book as follows:

President Johnson had held back from moving into the White House, remaining in the Vice-Presidential offices at the Executive Office Building. His attempt to get space for some of his aides in the offices that had been used by President Kennedy's workers was seized upon by the Kennedy contingent as an illustration of Mr. Johnson's boorishness.

Then when President Johnson conveyed to Robert Kennedy that he was planning to address a joint session of Congress on Tuesday, four days after the assassination, because he was eager to show that there was no disruption of Government operations, another disagreement arose.

President Kennedy's brother, then the Attorney General, considered this date as too precipitate and just another example of Mr. Johnson's desire to seize every vestige of power and trappings that went with the title of President, without concern for good taste.

Mr. Kennedy raised strong objections and suggested Wednesday he paid tribute to President Kennedy at a joint session in which he made his famous plea for the "earliest possible passage" of a civil rights program to remove

"every trace of discrimination and oppression."

Mr. Manchester is known to have said that in his account of the behavior of Mr. Johnson, he had tried to be fair, but that those who disliked Mr. Johnson and those who liked him would find material to support their points of view.

Burial Disputed

Where to bury President Kennedy became a matter of heated bickering, according to this account of the book.

Most of the Kennedy faction thought he should be buried in Massachusetts. Almost alone, however, in his insistence that the President be interred in Arlington was Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara.

Mrs. Kennedy then decided that her husband would have wanted Arlington, and others bowed to her decision.

This strength on the part of Mrs. Kennedy, after the day of the assassination is one of the important themes of the book, the man said.

"The book shows Mrs. Kennedy as making 90 per cent of the decisions about the funeral and behaving with incredible courage," the source said.

sages offensive to President Johnson, Senator Robert F. Kennedy's political future, and Mrs. Kennedy's role in history.

Mr. Manchester's statement was issued through Look magazine, which bought serialization rights to the book for \$665,000.

A spokesman for the magazine said there had been "absolutely no change" in plans to begin the four-part 80,000-word abridgment of the 300,000-word book in the Jan. 10 issue.

Mr. Manchester denied that he had "broken faith" with Mrs. Kennedy by taking advantage of her confidence or by recording "too faithfully" her words and emotions.

"Mrs. Kennedy asked me to write this book," the author said. "I did not seek the opportunity.

"I did not, indeed could not, have conducted these interviews without her voluntary contribution. Mrs. Kennedy herself did not ask to see the manuscript and still hasn't. If she had, I would, of course, have given it to her."

In Washington, Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts, charged that Mr. Manchester "now intends to go ahead in violation of the word of his agreement, the spirit of his arrangements and despite the pain he knows it will give Mrs. Kennedy."

Mrs. Kennedy has contended in her lawsuit that Mr. Manchester violated her rights with his plans to have published the unapproved manuscript of his book. A memorandum signed by Mr. Manchester and Senator Robert F. Kennedy on March 26, 1964, says that Mrs. Kennedy and the Senator must approve the text of the book.

Another clause says that the book may not be published before Nov. 22, 1968, exactly five years after the assassination. A third clause says Mr. Manchester may not dispose of subsidiary rights without the approval of the Kennedys.

Telegram Quoted

Harper & Row, Publishers, Inc., which plans to publish the book in March or April, says that Senator Kennedy told Mr. Manchester in a telegram last July that "member of the Kennedy family will place no obstacle in the way of publication of his book."

In a five-page affidavit in support of Mrs. Kennedy's suit, the Senator said that the "telegram makes no statement approving either text, or time, or mode of publication."

The telegram from Senator Kennedy read:

"Should any inquiries arise re the manuscript of your book I would like to state the follow-

ing:

"While I have not read William Manchester's account of the death of President Kennedy, I know of the President's respect for Mr. Manchester as an historian and a reporter. I understand others have plans to publish books regarding the events of Nov. 22, 1963. 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 facts of or the events relating to President Kennedy's death."

In his statement yesterday, Mr. Manchester said that on July 29, 1966, "I was informed by a member of the Kennedy family that because of President Kennedy's 'respect' for me as 'a historian and a reporter . . . members of the Kennedy family will place no obstacle in the way of publication' of my work."

'The Same Historian'

"I believe that I am now—in December of 1966—the same historian and reporter that I was in July and the same historian and reporter that I was in 1962 when President Kennedy expressed his confidence in me," the Manchester statement continued.

"I had hoped my book would be allowed to speak for itself and I would not have to speak for it. This is no longer possible. The integrity of my book and my own honesty as a writer and a person have been attacked."

Mr. Manchester said that "in life John Kennedy belonged to all Americans." He said that it was his belief that "some of the present bitterness comes from the dark nightmare of his death and the impotence in the face of death which we felt then and feel now."

He continued:

"I believe John Kennedy, who was himself a historian, would have wanted his countrymen to know the truth of those terrible days, and I have dedicated myself for nearly three years to reliving and reconstructing them so that the truth could be faithfully and accurately recorded."

Mr. Manchester also denied that his work was being published prematurely and that magazine serialization had not been contemplated by the Kennedys. He said that the family had authorized publication of the book in early 1967, to be preceded by the serialization in Look.

The author pointed out that

a number of friends and advisers of the Kennedy family had read the book at their request and that "appropriate changes" had been made in consultation with these friends.

'This Is My Book'

The author maintained, however, that "in the final analysis, this is my book."

He said:

"Neither Mrs. Kennedy nor any member of the Kennedy family nor anyone else is in any way responsible for my research or the content of my work. It is my responsibility and I am confident that my book can withstand any objective test, particularly the test of time. I only ask that it be given the chance."

In addition to the \$665,000 paid by Look for serialization rights, Harper & Row contracted with Mr. Manchester to pay some \$675,000 for the hard-cover book. Of this sum, the author has already received \$365,000.

Last week, Dell Books offered \$1-million for the book's paperback rights, a price said to be the largest ever tendered for such rights.

Former Federal Judge Simon H. Rifkind, who is representing Mrs. Kennedy in the suit, said about the author's statement:

"I don't know how Mr. Manchester escapes from the fact that he made a promise and now has not lived up to his part of the bargain."

"I don't know about literary integrity, nor the matter of history," he continued. "They don't concern me at the moment. But I believe strongly in a man keeping his word, particularly when it is in a written memorandum of understanding. There has been no approval from Mrs. Kennedy."

Earlier, Mr. Rifkind said he knew of no attempt to arrange an out-of-court settlement although he added that "conceivably any case can be settled out of court."

"But my present plans are to be in court on Dec. 27," he said.

In his statement in Washington, Senator Edward Kennedy recalled that Mr. Manchester had voluntarily signed an agreement promising "to use the material given him by Mrs. Kennedy only with her consent."

"Relying on the protection of his word," he continued, "she unburdened herself of her personal memories concerning her-

self and her children, in order to give him some background for his historical researches.

"I know she never dreamed that that material which related strictly to her private thoughts and acts—none of it part of the historical record—would ever be made public.

"Mr. Manchester now intends to go ahead in violation of the word of his agreement, the spirit of his arrangements, and despite the pain he knows it will give Mrs. Kennedy.

"What is at stake is not his integrity as a writer nor the accuracy of history, but rather the integrity of the commitment and the promise he willingly and voluntarily made."

Regarding the parts of the book that might possibly put President Johnson in a bad light, Bill D. Moyers, the President's press secretary, told The Associated Press in Washington that he had "not read the book and I have not read anything to the President," adding that Mr. Johnson had seen no part of the manuscript.

Mr. Moyers made the comment in response to a query about a statement by James Reston on the editorial page of The New York Times yesterday. Mr. Reston wrote that Mr. Moyers had read the "offending passages" and had no doubt informed the President.

Asked whether he was denying that he had read excerpts of the book, Mr. Moyers replied:

"No, I'm not denying that and I'm not confirming it either. This is a tragic enough case already without the White House getting involved in it."

From Austin, Tex., it was reported that some associates of President Johnson know what is in the book and believe that it gives a biased and inaccurate account of his attitudes and activities in the assassination period.

They are reported to possess evidence that rebuts or refutes some of the material in the Manchester book but do not intend to engage in a public dispute about it. They are not believed to have participated in the dispute about whether the book should be published.

In another development, the Rev. Dr. Donald S. Harrington, the pastor of the Community Church in New York, recommended that the public refuse to purchase the Manchester material if the book was published against Mrs. Kennedy's wishes.

Mrs. Kennedy's Counsel

Simon Hirsch Rifkind

THE lawyer who is representing Mrs. John F. Kennedy in her attempts to stop publication of "The Death of a President" by William Manchester is a former Federal judge who left the bench to increase his earnings. He is Simon Hirsch Rifkind, who is learned in Jewish law,

Man
in the
News

a man said to have a sense of humor and, generally a "busy, busy man," according to an associate. Mr. Rifkind earned the title

judge by serving from 1941 to 1950 as a Federal judge for the Southern District of New York. He said he could not maintain "a reasonable standard of living" on the \$15,000 annual salary.

On the bench and in private law practice Mr. Rifkind's associates have found him remarkably alert. "Nothing escapes him," one man said.

Mr. Rifkind, 65 years old, is blue-eyed, brown-haired, stands 5 feet 6 inches and weighs about 145 pounds. He was appointed to the bench by President Franklin D. Roosevelt and said rather proudly yesterday that he had served every President since.

His latest service was rendered to President Johnson. As co-chairman of the President's Commission on the Patent System Mr. Rifkind urged reforms.

Between Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Johnson, Mr. Rifkind served President Harry S. Truman as a Federal judge, President Dwight D. Eisenhower as a special referee to sift claims growing out of the sinking of the Andrea Doria and President Kennedy as an investigator into railroad labor problems.

Mr. Rifkind is described by associates as keen, intelligent, learned, pragmatic and as a "terrific worker." They could have added cautious and not given to flip statements about litigation in which he is involved.

Reminded yesterday that he had been extremely cautious in what he said about the litigation involving Mrs. Kennedy, Mr. Manchester, Harper & Row, Publishers, Inc., and Look magazine, which plans to begin serialization of portions of the book on Jan. 10, Mr. Rifkind said:

"After all, I'm in a line of business that teaches you to be careful with your speech."

Mr. Rifkind is a member of the law firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison of 575 Madison Avenue. He



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'Nothing escapes him'

said he had been serving Mrs. Kennedy on "general matters" for about a year and that her case had not interfered with other legal matters he is handling. Discipline is what lawyers need to be successful, he said, adding:

"Anybody who could do this kind of work without discipline, without avoiding a waste of time, would have to be a magician."

Mr. Rifkind is active in Jewish philanthropic endeavors. He served as chairman of the executive board of the American Jewish Committee and chairman of the board of the Jewish Theological Seminary.

"Pragmatic is the way to describe Judge Rifkind," an-

other associate said. "He is able to cut through confusion and get to the crux of the situation."

Mr. Rifkind was born in Meretz, Russia, on June 5, 1901. He was brought to the United States in 1910 by parents who raised him "in the habit of making moral valuations deliberately and not subconsciously," he once said.

He was one of five children, whose father, Jacob, was a wool merchant on the Lower East Side. As a youngster he went to DeWitt Clinton High School; City College, where he was elected the Phi Beta Kappa; and then to the Columbia Law School, where his 1925 classmate included William O. Douglas, now an associate Justice of the Supreme Court and Thomas E. Dewey, former Governor of New York.

Mr. Rifkind, who was naturalized in 1924 and admitted to the bar in 1926, got his first break in adult life when he went to work for Senator Robert F. Wagner as a combination secretary and legislative assistant. Senator Wagner, who was the father of the former Mayor, was among those who most influenced Mr. Rifkind.

He met his wife, the former Adele Singer, while a student at Columbia. They were married on June 12, 1927. The couple, who live in a six-room cooperative apartment at 125 East 63d Street, have two sons, Dr. Richard Allen Rifkind, a professor of medicine at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University, and Robert Singer Rifkind, a lawyer in the Office of the Solicitor General.

Mr. Rifkind has no hobbies. He and Mrs. Rifkind went to Japan on their last vacation in 1964 and do not have the "faintest idea" where and when they will go on vacation again.

Look Is Changing Title Of the Kennedy Book

William Attwood, editor of Look magazine, said yesterday that the title of William Manchester's book on the assassination of President Kennedy would be "The Death of a President."

However, Look is calling its series of excerpts from the book, planned for publication starting Jan. 10, "Death of a President." There was no immediate explanation of why the title had been changed.

The book and the magazine series have been titled both ways in some recent newspaper accounts.

start worrying about production deadlines.

Finally, time began running out and, when continuing negotiations failed to bring an accord, Mrs. Kennedy stepped in and sued.

Text of Statement by Manchester on Book Dispute

Following is the text of a statement issued yesterday by William Manchester, author of the "The Death of a President," in the controversy over its publication:

On July 29, 1966, I was informed by a member of the Kennedy family that because of President Kennedy's "respect" for me as "a historian and a reporter . . . members of the Kennedy family will place no obstacle in the way of publication" of my work.

I believe that I am now—in December of 1966—the same historian and reporter that I was in July and the same historian and reporter that I was in 1962 when President Kennedy expressed his confidence in me.

I feel that I am the same, yet clearly circumstances are not. A legal obstacle is sought to be placed in the way of publication of my book, "The Death of a President."

I had hoped my book would

be allowed to speak for itself, and I would not have to speak for it. This is no longer possible. The integrity of my book and my own honesty as a writer and a person have been attacked.

In life John Kennedy belonged to all Americans. His cruel murder deprived us all. I cannot help but feel that some of the present bitterness comes from the dark nightmare of his death and the impotence in the face of death which we felt then and feel now.

John Kennedy was my President. To suggest that I would dishonor his memory or my association with him is both cruel and unjust. His standards of excellence have guided me throughout this work. I believe John Kennedy, who was himself an historian, would have wanted his countrymen to know the truth of those terrible days, and I have dedicated myself for

nearly three years to reliving and reconstructing them so that the truth could be faithfully and accurately recorded.

It has been said that my work is being published prematurely and that magazine serialization was not contemplated by the Kennedy family. This is not so. In the summer of 1966, authorization was given by the family for publication of the book in early 1967, to be preceded by serialization in *Look* magazine.

It has been said that I have broken faith with Mrs. Kennedy, that I took advantage of her confidence in me and that I recorded too faithfully her words and emotions. I do not believe this to be so.

Mrs. Kennedy asked me to write this book; I did not seek the opportunity. Mrs. Kennedy gave me 10 hours of interviews; I did not, indeed could not, have conducted these interviews without her

voluntary cooperation. Mrs. Kennedy herself did not ask to see the manuscript and still hasn't. If she had, I would, of course, have given it to her.

Instead, the Kennedy family asked to have the book read by a number of friends and advisers. This was done, and appropriate changes were made in consultation with these distinguished friends. Mrs. Kennedy asked to have yet another friend read the book. This, too, was done and yet more changes were made.

However, in the last analysis, this is my book. Neither Mrs. Kennedy nor any member of the Kennedy family nor anyone else is in any way responsible for my research or the content of my work. It is my responsibility, and I am confident that my book can withstand any objective test, particularly the test of time. I ask only that it be given the chance.

BOOK WAS SOUGHT BY SIX MAGAZINES

First Step in Sale of Rights
Was Taken in Mid-July

By RICHARD WITKIN

Plans for publishing William Manchester's book on the assassination of President Kennedy began racing toward dangerous waters early last summer when efforts were initiated to have the account published in early 1967 instead of after November, 1968.

There are conflicting versions of what took place—versions that will figure in the lawsuit that has been brought by Mrs. John F. Kennedy.

But what resulted, in any case, was that Harper & Row, the publishers, began gearing to put out the book next spring, and moves were undertaken that resulted in sale of the

magazine serial rights to Cowles Communications, Inc., the publisher of Look magazine.

The first installment has been planned for the Look issue that reaches newsstands on Jan. 10.

The first step in the sale of the magazine rights was taken in mid-July. Mr. Manchester's literary agent, Donald Congdon, sent the manuscript to six magazines that had expressed interest.

Magazines Named.

In addition to Look they were: Life, The Saturday Evening Post, The Ladies Home Journal, McCall's and Good Housekeeping.

Mr. Congdon said yesterday that he had also offered the manuscript to The New Yorker and The New York Times, but that neither had cared to enter the competition.

Sources close to Mr. Manchester said yesterday that the author had felt free to go ahead with magazine negotiations because he had received verbal assurances from Senator Robert F. Kennedy that formal approval was on the way.

What was considered the "formal approval" was the telegram the Senator sent in which he said that "members of the Kennedy family will place no obstacle in the way of publication of his (Mr. Manchester's) book."

This telegram is generally regarded as one of the most critical elements in the case. It was sent on July 28. That was one day after the magazine representatives began their final round of negotiations with Mr. Congdon.

When the manuscripts were offered to the magazines, a great effort was made to see that they did not get into too many hands. It was evident that they contained much newsworthy material and it was feared that, if caution was not exercised, this material would prematurely find its way into print.

Accordingly, a request was made to the six magazines that the manuscripts be read only by top echelon editors, and that all the copies be returned promptly by all but the magazine that bought the rights.

On the afternoon of July 29, shortly before the deadline for bids originally set by Mr. Congdon, David Maness, articles editor of Life, submitted a bid for more than \$500,000 plus some added promotional benefits.

Shortly afterward, Mr. Congdon went into conference with William B. Arthur, Look editor, and Robert Meskill, a managing editor. Their offer was not so

high as the Life offer, and Mr. Congdon told them so.

The only other magazine that was ever really in the running, informants said, was The Saturday Evening Post.

The Look editors, concerned that the price might slip from their grasp, asked for a little time and were back early in the evening with what proved to be the winning offer. It was for \$665,000 and also provided that Mr. Manchester would receive a fee as a special consultant.

Now it was the turn of the negotiators for Life to learn that their bid was low. Unfortunately for them, the magazine's top editors had scattered for the weekend. It was Friday evening.

Mr. Congdon was asked to keep the matter open until Monday when the top editors would be back at their desks. But he and Mr. Manchester decided to accept the Look bid.

There had never been any stipulation that the highest bid would win. Another consideration was that it probably was best to accept a firm offer already in hand—a record offer, at that.

Finally, according to informed sources, Look was amenable to having the author control not only the text, but headlines, pictures and the like, while Life wanted to retain such control.

Mr. Manchester was reported to have kept Senator Kennedy fully informed of what was going on. The Senator was at his home, in Hyannis Port in Cape Cod, and Mr. Manchester was reported to have spoken with him by phone twice on the day the deal was consummated with Look—once before and once after the agreement was made.

Why did the author want the publication speeded up rather than wait for the originally agreed-on date—which was to have been after November, 1968? This was the answer of one source familiar with his reasoning:

"The book had been submitted to Harper and Row three months before, and its content had been discussed with various people. Everyone realized it was a brilliant job and thought that it was certainly in shape to be published. So why hold it up?"

Mr. Kennedy, in an affidavit filed in connection with the lawsuit, said his telegram—the telegram saying no obstacles would be put in the way of publication—had been sent at the

"urging of defendants Manchester and Harper."

"I was told by Harper's representatives," he said, "that Manchester was becoming ill from an obsession with the thought that the book might never be published."

The Senator stressed, however, that the "telegram makes no statement approving either text, or time, or mode of publication."

It was about this time that Mrs. Kennedy returned to New York from a vacation in Hawaii. And many observers believe it was she who made the major objection to serialization—particularly to the manner in which magazine publication was planned.

An emotional meeting between the President's widow and Look's Gardner Cowles was reportedly held in Hyannis Port.

Negotiations Go On

Negotiations between all the parties went back and forth over the next weeks and months, with changes made here and there in the manuscript and other demands taken under consideration.

At one point during the tangled proceedings, Mr. Manchester went to Europe. Top executives at Harper's flew to London for critical conferences with him.

Time was flying by. And in December, time became critical, for it was necessary for both Look and Harper and Row to