

Mrs. Kennedy Sues to Block Book On Assassination of President

12/15/66

By Andrew J. Glass
Washington Post Staff Writer

NEW YORK, Dec. 14—Mrs. John F. Kennedy said today that she must seek a "horrible" court trial in an effort to halt publication of the book she had commissioned about the assassination of her husband.

The widow of the late President accused William Manchester, author of "Death of a President," of having written "a premature account of the events of November, 1963, that is in part both tasteless and distorted."

In a bitterly worded statement issued by her office here, Mrs. Kennedy also declared: "I am equally shocked that reputable publishers would take commercial advantage of (Manchester's) failure to keep his word."

The 350,000-word manuscript is scheduled to be published by Harper & Row in April. The first segment of a four-



United Press International

WILLIAM MANCHESTER
... author of Kennedy book

part serialization of the book is due to appear in the Jan. 10 issue of Look magazine.

Mrs. Kennedy's lawyer,

former Federal Judge Simon H. Rifkind, said a suit seeking to stop publication will be filed in New York State Supreme Court within 48 to 72 hours. "We will seek a variety of relief against the defendants, including a temporary injunction to restrain the publication of the magazine articles and the book," Rifkind announced.

Mrs. Kennedy based her suit on the alleged violation of a contract signed on March 26, 1964, between Manchester and Sen. Robert F. Kennedy (D-N.Y.), who was then Attorney General.

The contract stated, in part, that "the completed manuscript shall be reviewed by Mrs. John F. Kennedy and Robert F. Kennedy and the text shall not be published unless and until approved by them."

After Mrs. Kennedy announced she was bringing

See **KENNEDY, A8, Col. 3**

Mrs. Kennedy Sues to

suit, Harper & Row, who have brought out virtually all of the recent best-selling biographies of John F. Kennedy, said they intended to go ahead with their publication plans for "Death of a President."

"We very much regret," the Harper statement added, "that there is any misunderstanding with reference to this important and significant historical document."

William Attwood, editor-in-chief of Cowles Communications, Inc., publishers of Look, said: "There is a point at which you have to stop, where censorship and freedom of the press become the issue."

Attwood, who served two years as President Kennedy's Ambassador to Guinea, added that "no one here wants to embarrass the Kennedy's, least of all me." The editor asserted that "there is nothing in the book that is in bad taste. If there was, I wouldn't allow it to be printed."

The first installment of the four planned Look articles—sold to the magazine by Manchester's literary agent, reportedly for a record \$650,000—has already gone to the printers. About two million copies of the 8-million-copy press run have already been run off.

Sources close to the Cowles management said Look had no intention of stopping the presses. Attorneys for both defendants privately expressed their belief that Mrs. Kennedy's impending court action was without legal merit.

Both Harper & Row and

Text of Mrs. John F. Kennedy's



Associated Press

MRS. JOHN F. KENNEDY
... to seek court action

NEW YORK, Dec. 14 (AP)—Here is the text of the statement by Mrs. John F. Kennedy on her suit to stop publication of "Death of A President."

Look magazine, Harper & Row, and Mr. William Manchester have repeatedly made clear that only legal action can alter their insistence upon publishing at this time—without regard to accepted standards of propriety and good faith, and in specific violation of my wishes, my contract with Mr. Manchester and the dignity and privacy which my children and I have striven with difficulty to retain—a premature account of the events of November 1963 that is in part both tasteless and distorted.

Its inaccurate and unfair references to other individuals, in contrast with its generous references to all members of the Kennedy family, are perhaps beyond my

Look, it was understood, will maintain in court that they possess valid contracts with the 44-year-old author, who was handpicked in 1964 by Mrs. Kennedy to write the official Kennedy family-sponsored account of the assassination.

Manchester, who was at his home in Middletown, Conn., after returning yesterday from a trip to Europe, said: "It's rather well known that I wouldn't have taken a step in the publication of this book without the approval of Robert Kennedy speaking as a member of the Kennedy family."

Manchester was alluding to the key to the defendants' case: A July 22 telegram from Sen. Kennedy to the author that said, in effect, that the Kennedy family would not stand in the way of publishing "Death of a President."

The wire from the Senator was preceded by extensive negotiations between the author and his publishers, on the one hand, and, on the other, two close friends of Robert Kennedy who had been asked by the Senator to read Manchester's first draft.

The Kennedy friends, both former high-level aides in the Justice Department, are Ed-

win O. Guthman, national editor of the Los Angeles Times, and John Seigenthaler, editor of the Nashville Tennessean.

Neither Mrs. Kennedy nor Sen. Kennedy has read the Manchester account, but the Senator sent his two friends the manuscript in early 1966, soon after the author had completed his two-year writing project.

The friends recommended changes in the text and some of them were made. Most of the revisions reflected what Guthman and Seigenthaler felt were unduly harsh and factually inaccurate assessments of Lyndon B. Johnson

Curb Publishers

Statement on Book Suit

prevention; but to expose to all the world at this time all the private grief, personal thoughts, and painful reactions which my children and I endured in those terrible days does not seem to me to be essential to any current historical record.

I am shocked that Mr. Manchester would exploit the emotional state in which I recounted my recollections to him early in 1964; and I'm equally shocked that reputable publishers would take commercial advantage of his failure to keep his word. To the author and publishers this book will only be another transient chapter in their works; but my children and I will have to live with it for the rest of our lives.

As horrible as a trial will be, it now seems clear that my only redress is to ask the courts to enforce my rights and postpone publication until the minimum limits of my family's privacy can be protected.

at the time of the assassination.

The original contract with Manchester anticipated that his volume would appear five years after the assassination, although Mrs. Kennedy was granted the right to change the publication date.

It was the Senator, however, who decided that the book should come out in 1967. He believed that if the book were to appear in 1968—a presidential election year—it could conceivably be used against the re-election drive of President Johnson.

However, in the mind of the Senator, if the Manchester

book came out after the election, it could be then interpreted as a Kennedy campaign document for the presidential elections of 1972. "Bob thought it would be better to go ahead and get it over with," a source close to the Senator reported.

Fresh difficulties arose, however, after the sale to Look. These new problems revolved almost entirely around Mrs. Kennedy's feelings that Manchester had breached a trust in quoting extensively from their 10 hours of taped conversations that occurred on two successive evenings in late March, 1964.

For a time, Look negotiated on Mrs. Kennedy's behalf with Richard N. Goodwin, a former presidential assistant to Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Johnson and a close family friend. The magazine's editors agreed to some revisions. They also agreed to postpone the serialization from October to January, so that the articles would not coincide with the third anniversary of the President's death.

Several weeks ago, however, Look objected to any more revisions and, denied representatives of the Kennedy family further access to the page proofs. Harper & Row, for their part, reached a similar decision last Friday.

It was these dual actions that prompted Mrs. Kennedy's decision over the weekend to seek a court injunction against publication.

Press Chief to Publish Paper

over

Moyers Quits White House Job; Christian Will Be His Successor

**Resignation Laid
To Family Matters;
Jacobsen Leaving**

12/18/62
By Carroll Kilpatrick
Washington Post Staff Writer

White House Press Secretary Bill D. Moyers, the last member of President Johnson's original White House staff, announced his resignation yesterday.

Moyers said that he would be succeeded by George Christian, 39-year-old native of Austin, Tex., who has been assistant to the President since May and has been pinch-hitting for Moyers as a spokesman in recent weeks.

Moyers will become publisher and chief operating officer of Newsday, a highly successful Long Island daily. Moyers denied reports that there was any break with the President and asserted that he was leaving because of "personal family obligations" and with the President's "blessing."

Moyers weighed several attractive offers before accepting the Newsday job—one, an offer from the President himself to run LBJ's business interests in Texas, another from a group of Texans who are trying to buy the Houston Chronicle. He would have become publisher there, too.

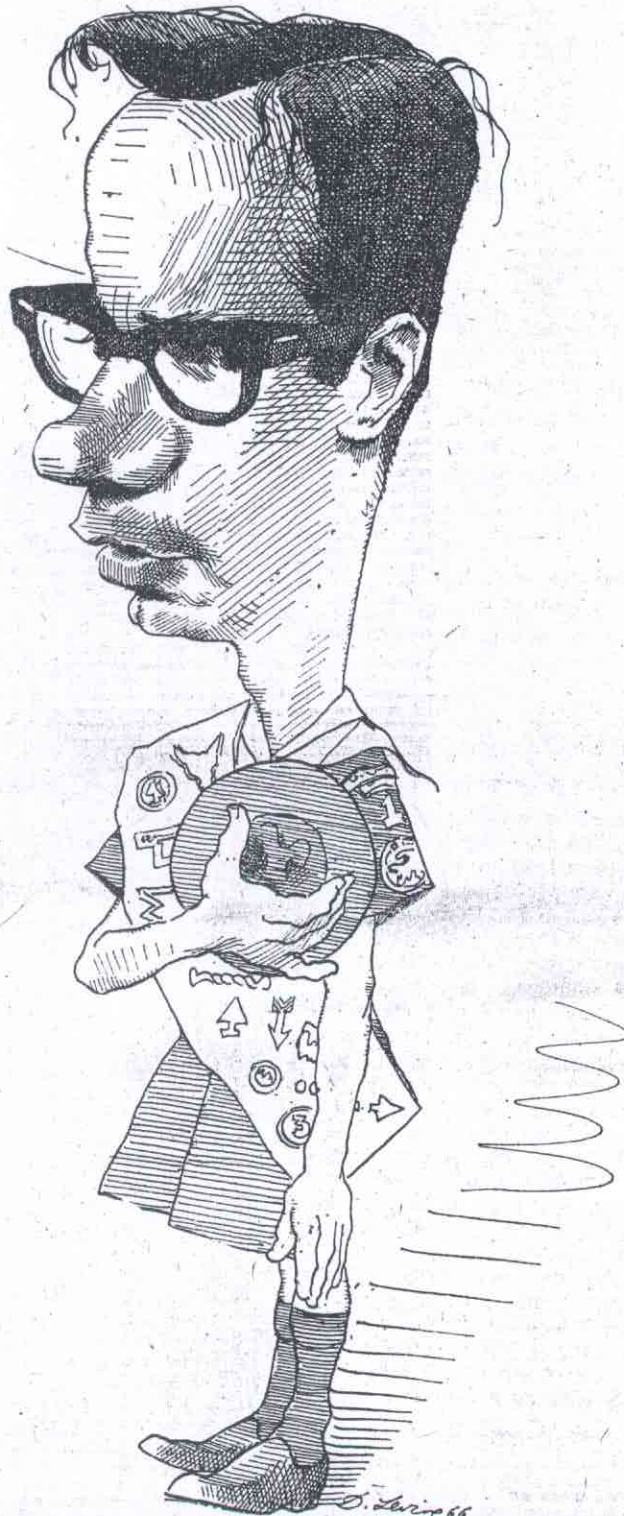
The Moyers appointment was announced Tuesday to Newsday executives, though Moyers himself denied the story to reporters throughout the day, as he had for more than a week.

Before announcing his own plans, Moyers announced the resignation of Jake Jacobsen as legislative counsel to the President. Jacobsen is return-

See **MOYERS**, A7, Col. 1

Resignation of Moyers and Jacobsen dramatizes difficulty of Johnson Administration to attract and keep talent. Page A6.

Slow-talking, even-tempered George Christian becomes presidential press secretary under adverse circumstances. Page A6.



Drawing by David Levine

BILL D. MOYERS

ing to his law firm in Austin, Tex., sometime next month. He joined the President's staff in April, 1965, on the understanding that he would remain a limited time.

Moyers's resignation is effective the end of January, after work is completed on the President's State of the Union and budget messages to the new Congress. Moyers has devoted much of his time in the last two or three weeks on the President's messages and legislative program.

His departure as Press Secretary comes at a time when the President's relations with the press and public have again deteriorated and at a time when there are repeated charges of a "credibility gap" between the President and the public.

Moyers worked hard to overcome the friction between the press and the President, and was generally given high marks for his efforts. But despite Moyers's skill much of the friction remained.

President Johnson has had more trouble than most recent Presidents in keeping a staff, but Moyers said yesterday that all those who had left did so "reluctantly," with the President's friendship and usually for special family reasons.

Mr. Johnson inherited the Kennedy staff in November, 1963, the same staff with which Mr. Kennedy entered the White House. That staff has all departed, and all the other men Mr. Johnson brought into the White House early in his tenure also have left.

They include former Press Secretary George E. Reedy, Special Assistants Jack J. Valenti, Horace Busby, Jacobson and others.

Moyers succeeded Reedy as Press Secretary in July, 1965. Early this year, the President announced the appointment of Robert H. Fleming as Deputy Press Secretary with the understanding that he would succeed Moyers.

But it soon became ap-

parent that the President was not satisfied, and in May Christian was named an assistant to Special Assistant Walt W. Rostow. It was denied that Christian would join the press staff, but he soon was active in Moyers's office. Fleming is specializing in television coverage.

From the beginning, Moyers has had wide responsibilities in the White House. He has attended the weekly foreign policy luncheons with the President, Secretary of State Dean Rusk, Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara and Rostow.

Both before he became Press Secretary and since, Moyers played a leading role in drafting presidential messages and developing legislative programs.

He has had close contacts with Sen. Robert F. Kennedy (D-N.Y.) and often acted as go-between for the President and Kennedy and with other members of the Kennedy wing of the Party.

Moyers's only brother, James, died in September, and his parents are not well. There is evidence that these factors helped persuade Moyers that he should assume larger family responsibilities and attempt to earn more than the \$30,000 his present post pays.

He was first approached by Harry F. Guggenheim, publisher and editor of Newsday, in August. At that time Moyers said no, despite the attractiveness of the offer.

In November, the offer was made again, and after a long discussion with the President, Moyers reached a decision. It has not been disclosed what Moyers's salary at Newsday will be.

One published report said that Moyers became disenchanted and took the Newsday position because the President had failed to name him Ambassador to South Vietnam and because Moyers had clashed with Rostow.

Moyers said nothing could

be farther from the truth. He said he had no desire to be Ambassador and had never discussed the idea with the President.

Despite his denial of the clash with Rostow, other sources said that Moyers and Rostow had been in conflict during the latter part of the Pres-

ident's Asian trip. Moyers was in general charge of all arrangements and plans for the trip.

Moyers said he had been influenced primarily by what he thought in "the best interest of my family."

"The President told me he fully understood the reasons and considerations that have

led me to this decision," Moyers said.

Moyers said that he had no plans to write a book and that he had "no intention, at this time, of doing any writing" for Newsday. He said he would be active in Newsday's editorial and business affairs.

Although he is only 32 years old, Moyers first worked for

the then Senator Johnson in the summer of 1954. Later, he

worked for three years for KTBC, the Johnson family radio-TV station in Austin.

In 1959, Moyers became a special assistant to Mr. Johnson, then the Senator Democratic Leader. In 1961, Moyers joined the administrative staff of the Peace Corps, rising to

THE WASHINGTON POST

Thursday, Dec. 15, 1966

A 7

the post of Associate Director. He held that position at the time of President Kennedy's assassination.

Moyers was in Texas at the time, helping with the trip arrangements. He flew back to Washington from Dallas with President Johnson and has been with him since.

Guggenheim said in Garden

City, N.Y., that he would remain as editor-in-chief and president and that William McIlwain would be editor.

In searching for a new publisher, Guggenheim, 76, said he wanted someone with "a young talent, energetic talent, imaginative talent, forceful and endowed with good judgment . . . a man of broad knowledge and culture."