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Publication Of RFK Book Postponed

NEW YORK (AP) — The dispute between the Kennedy family and Harper & Row publishers over the book, "The Death of a President," apparently prompted Sen. Robert F. Kennedy to halt publication of a book containing the senator's major speeches, it was learned today.

An announcement of publication of the senator's book, "New Problems, New Proposals," appeared in Harper & Row's winter catalogue last November.

But Tuesday, Evan Thomas, vice president of Harper & Row, said the 150-year-old publishing house decided to drop the book from the winter schedule.

"The first indication that there would be a delay came last December when the senator failed to send us the introduction to the book," said Thomas. "We sent some inquiries to Washington, but received no reply."

"He got a reply to everything he sent," a Kennedy aide said. "If he didn't it was simply because the senator didn't have time. Some material was not furnished. It was not completely buttonholed."

Cass Canfield, chairman of the executive committee of Harper & Row, said that a few months ago, after part of the book already had been set in type, Kennedy suggested holding up publication for additional material.

"We both agreed to put in some more speeches," said Canfield.

The Kennedy aide said that to

the best of his recollection the decision to postpone publication of the book was made sometime in late October or early November 1966.

"There hasn't been any discussion since the postponement," the aide said.

Another source said the reason for the postponement was the anticipated controversy stirred up by author William Manchester's book, "The Death of a President," which Harper & Row is publishing in April after reaching an out-of-court settlement with Mrs. John F. Kennedy.

Mrs. Kennedy sued Manchester and Harper & Row last December to block publication of the book on grounds some passages were too personal and were an invasion of privacy. An agreement was reached, and Mrs. Kennedy dropped the suit.

While the postponement of the senator's book was decided on either in late October or early November, several weeks before Mrs. Kennedy brought her suit in December, the source explained that a controversy was shaping up at the time of the postponement of the Robert Kennedy book.

The source said it was felt by both the Kennedys and Harper & Row that it would be unwise to proceed with the senator's book while the Manchester book controversy was still up in the air.