

JIMMY BRESLIN

A New Suit —Beautiful



BEAUTIFUL. AND NOW LOOK MAGAZINE and William Manchester are suing my newspaper, the World Journal Tribune, for \$700,000. They say the newspaper came out with parts of "The Death of a President" seven hours before the release time set by Look. They also say the newspaper used more than the 300-word limit on quotes from the article in the magazine.

It's absolutely marvelous. And this new lawsuit has brought this whole book thing which I had forgotten about back into my mind. And I have been moved to do a very great thing.

What moved me is that when this great book controversy started 30 years ago, Look and Manchester were screaming that the Kennedys were trying to copyright American history. But now Manchester says he got that all settled, and he is the sole owner of this American history and he has leased it to Look magazine for a few weeks for \$665,000. Look says that because it has bought the lease on this American history it will let you have only 300 words of it at a time. Why anybody would want any of the words is a question. Manchester writes like a girl and his stories so far read like they belong in True Confession magazine. But anyway, Look keeps saying you can have only the 300 words and then only at 6 p.m. at night when it is dark in the wintertime.

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AND NOW TO PROTECT THIS American history they own, they are down to suing my newspaper. This caused me to do the very great thing. What I am going to do is, today I am going into Federal Court in Foley Square and I am going to sue Bobby Kennedy, Jackie Kennedy, William Manchester, the whole staff of Look, plus Harper and Row, publishers. I'm going to sue them because I never got a chance to write the book. They sue. I sue. Only I am not backing down. I would like to write a book like this because I think it would be a very good thing for me to do this year.

Since I did not get the chance to do the book, I claim interference with the right of free speech and freedom of expression and the First Amendment. I am very serious and I hope the judgment will be immense. My personal lawyer in Washington, Paul Porter, says I am to instruct my solicitors in New York to enter court today and hit everybody in the face with the great decision handed down in Lumley v. Guy, which is my favorite law case. I like Lumley v. Guy because it sounds real good and I like to say it out loud when people are around.

"Whatever you do, and whoever comes up to you, just shout 'Lumley v. Guy!' and then carry on," my personal lawyer says.

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THERE ARE A LOT OF REASONS why I now think I should have been allowed to write this book. To begin with, everybody says that I'm absolutely capable of acting just as silly as everybody who has been involved in it so far. Also, there is money. I really think that I would like to have \$665,000 right now.

And then there are a lot of parts where I think I could've done way better than William Manchester. Take one of the most important parts of the whole book project. That's the part where Bobby Kennedy began to scream about people making money. Bobby Kennedy, of the Joseph P. Kennedy family, screaming about somebody else making money. Beautiful. If there is one thing in the whole world that everybody says I am qualified for, it is to give a real good answer to an argument like that. I am certain that I could have given Bobby Kennedy an answer to this that would have made me known all over the whole world.

And I would have been all right in handling the other important part of the book. When Jackie Kennedy began fighting. For 13 years I've been living with a girl named the former Rosemary Dattolico and she is a Sicilian and all she does when you have an argument with her is to start screaming, "Get me the bread knife!" No disrespect meant, but anybody who has been around a Sicilian temper for 13 years could go out of the house and get into an argument with any woman who ever lived and not be worried even a little bit.

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I ALSO WOULD HAVE KNOWN how to handle it real good when these people who do things for the Kennedys, the ones called "former aids" or "spokesmen," began to nibble around at the book manuscript. One of them is John Seigenthaler. He is the editor of a newspaper in Nashville. Another is Ed Guthman, who is an editor on the Los Angeles Times. Both these people had very big parts in this book controversy. You read their names in the paper every day. You never would have heard about them if I was around. I would've sent a wire to the publishers of their papers. The wire would have said, "My book controversy is a great big story and you have a man in the middle of it and he isn't writing anything about it for your newspaper. Does he work for your newspaper or do you just pay him and assign him to Bobby Kennedy's staff? If this is true, please let me know as it is a national scandal and I would like to write it up big." They would be back on their jobs the same night.

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I ALSO WOULD NOT JUST STAND by and let Richard Goodwin, another spokesman, walk around and pass out statements. I would tell everybody that Richard Goodwin could be mad at Look on account of they bounced a story he sent in to them. And if Arthur Schlesinger Jr., said anything, I would know that he was mad because he wasn't writing the book himself and I would give him all the files and the rights to do the definitive book about the book. He would write it in three days and he would get paid and be very happy. And I could handle Pamela Turnure, another one of these editors, by giving her a copy of Seventeen magazine to read.

So if you sue my paper, you sue me. Into the courtroom lists I go. And I have two great things going for me. I have lawyers ready to scream, "Breslin was qualified; he makes a mess of anything he touches." And right after that, they'll shout, "Lumley v. Guy!" and I'll yell it, too, and I hope I get a ton of money on the judgment. It's beautiful.