

Title:
 "Book Linking
 John Kennedy
 to Miss
 Monroe
 Hits Snag"

INQUIRER -
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Of Our Washington Bureau
 WASHINGTON.—An explosive book purportedly linking the late President John F. Kennedy with movie star Marilyn Monroe has run into legal roadblocks.

After signing a contract, advancing \$9000, and gearing up for March publication, World Publishing Company of New York abruptly canceled a tell-all book by a close friend of the deceased actress.

The frustrated author is Hollywood makeup artist George Masters, best known for his "retreading" of President Johnson's daughter Lynda Bird.

PLANS TO SUE

Masters' attorney, Jerome Duff of St. Louis, is preparing to sue World for about a million dollars for breach of contract.

After reading the book manuscript, Duff said it alleges that Kennedy and Miss Monroe met "often" at the California home of actor Peter



MARILYN MONROE
 ... subject of suit

Lawford, Kennedy's brother-in-law.

Published reports in recent years have linked Miss Monroe with the late Sen. Robert Kennedy.

"It was never Bobby. It was Jack Kennedy," Masters told these reporters.

Duff said that World senior editor James Wade admitted "outside pressure" prompted the unexpected cancellation of the book.

Wade was unavailable for comment.

DENIES CHARGES

Spokesman for World and for Covington & Burling, the Kennedy family's Washington law firm, denied Duff's charges of pressure.

Duff plans to fly to New York on Monday to file suit in U. S. District Court. If sworn depositions substantiate his conviction that the Kennedy family blocked publication, Duff said, he intends to name them as co-defendants.

Masters' literary agent, Oscar Collier of New York City, is trying to line up a new publisher. Only if the new publisher objects, Duff said, will he consider delaying legal action.

"Feel Me—Am I Dry Yet?" was the working title of the Masters book. In it the makeup man reveals how he glamorized famous beauties, won their trust, and learned about their private lives.

He has worked with almost every major Hollywood star, but rocketed to national fame via Lynda Bird while she was dating Masters' friend, actor George Hamilton.

DIRECT QUOTES

"George Masters was very close to Marilyn Monroe," said agent Collier. "He looked through the camera lens often before she permitted herself to be photographed. George often helped her get ready to go out on dates. The book is super-candid. It contains some direct quotes from Marilyn."

"It is clear that her admiration for John F. Kennedy was intense. George tells the truth as he sees it. The book was very carefully researched. That is all I can say."

Masters recalled that Miss Monroe had been "fired" by her studio, Twentieth Century Fox, for consistent failure to appear on the set. She was suddenly reinstated, he said. He intimated that Kennedy influence played a part.

'SO OBVIOUS'

"Three days later she flew to New York to be at the big JFK birthday party (in May



JOHN KENNEDY
 ... met Marilyn 'often'?

1962). It was so obvious," Masters said.

The book contract was canceled, Duff said, "forty-eight hours after World received a call from Covington & Burling."

Duff also represents the Teamsters Union whose officers nourish an enduring hatred for the late Robert Kennedy. He helped expose Teamsters criminal activities while serving as counsel to the Senate Rackets Committee.

The burgeoning literary controversy recalls the furor in 1966 when President Kennedy's widow, Jacqueline, now Mrs. Aristotle Onassis, sought unsuccessfully to quash a book by William Manchester. The legal battle dominated the news media for months.

Masters' two co-authors, Frances Spatz Leighton and Iris Segal Gallin, were shocked by the fast brushoff from World. Their manuscript had been edited for printing and initialed page by page. The lightning struck while promotion releases and photos were being prepared.

A World official admitted that the eleventh-hour reversal was "unique" in his long experience in publishing. He would say only that their attorneys saw no way to recast the text to avoid libel or invasion-of-privacy complications.

Duff termed the libel complaint "sheer fantasy." He cited Sullivan vs. New York Times, a landmark case which a U. S. Supreme Court ruling makes it almost impossible to libel a public figure. To make a case, malice must be proven.

"George's book is not only true, which is a total defense to libel," Duff asserted, "but even if it were inaccurate or untrue, none of it is malicious."