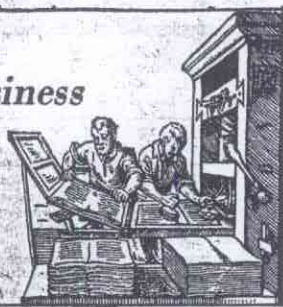


Book Business



By JOYCE ILLIG

John's Other Book

JOHN DEAN, like Spiro Agnew, has apparently decided to turn to fiction for his first attempt as an author. Reports are that Dean will write a novel for Bantam that tells of a beautiful black female lawyer in Washington who is up for a Supreme Court appointment. She finds herself engulfed in a campaign led by Southern senators who want to crush her career.

Presidential Figures

THE MONEY NIXON received for his memoirs is still a secret. Both the publisher, Warner Paperback Library, and agent Irving Lazar, have refused comment on the financial particulars of the deal. One guess, bandied about the industry, is \$3 million. But as one New York lawyer-agent put it: "If that figure's true, it has to be conditioned on there being a sale of two million books. My guess is that the up-front money was no more than \$100,000."

Whatever sum was involved, Warner Paperback Library is not shy about admitting it wanted a book that a lot of major New York publishers appeared to disdain. Warner president Howard Kaminsky said that from the time Nixon left the White House they wanted to go after his memoirs, the best reason being, "Look, the guy wants to tell his story and I think he's going to be very candid about it."

"We obviously want to publish it because we think we can make a lot of money with it," Kaminsky said. "Whether or not you believe in the man politically or philosophically, it's still going to be one hell of a story."

JOYCE ILLIG writes regularly on the publishing scene for Book World.

Red Ink

THE NATIONAL BOOK Committee has decided to go on a 30-day fund-raising campaign to avoid folding its 10-year-old operation and end its sponsorship of the National Book Awards. If the efforts fail, the committee plans to disband at its next executive meeting, as yet unscheduled, and to turn over to the Association of American Publishers the responsibility for the book awards. Strong rumors persist, however, that if the National Book Committee doesn't survive, the awards will be presented at the June convention of the American Booksellers Association in New York.

The last-ditch efforts of the National Book Committee will depend a great deal of the teamwork among the well-connected members of its executive committee. The impressive list of members has as its chairman Roger Stevens, who enjoys a well-deserved reputation for raising money for the Metropolitan Opera and the Kennedy Center.

Revising Henry

DELL HAS PURCHASED the paperback rights to Marvin and Bernard Kalb's book *Kissinger* which was published in hardcover by Little Brown in August. For the paperback edition, the Kalbs will write additional material described as an effort to pull together some of the things that have happened to Kissinger since the hardcover publication . . . like the subject of wiretapping and the CIA's involvement in Chile.

Foreign rights to *Kissinger* have been sold in seven countries and Little Brown reports that Lebanon is about to sign on as the eighth.

No More War

THE LAST VOLUME of the three-volume history of the Civil War by Shelby Foote will be published by Random House in November. It is called "The Civil War: A Narrative" and is priced at \$20 a volume, or \$60 for the set. The author stopped a career as a novelist 20 years ago to write a one-volume history of the war. It took hold, and 1,600,000 words later he completed the work. Foote said it took him five times longer to write the books than it did to fight the war, but that there was only one of him.