

DISPUTE DETAILED ON EARLIER BOOK

Mrs. Kennedy Objected to
'White House Nannie'

By EDITH EVANS ASBURY

"The Death of a President" is not the first book to which Mrs. John F. Kennedy objected before publication, it was disclosed yesterday.

In 1965 she enlisted the aid of Sol M. Linowitz, then chairman of the board of Xerox Corporation, to prevent publication of "White House Nannie," Miss Maude Shaw's story of "My Years with Caroline and John Kennedy Jr."

The English publisher who had persuaded Miss Shaw to write the book confirmed in a telephone conversation from London last night that Mrs. Kennedy had objected to the book.

The publisher is Michael Borissow, managing director of Angley Books and chairman of Southern News Services, Ltd.

According to Mr. Borissow, Mr. Linowitz telephoned him in the fall of 1965, saying he was in England on other business but had been asked while there to speak to Mr. Borissow about Miss Shaw's book.

"He had a copy of the manuscript," Mr. Borissow recalled last night. "I don't know where he got it, but I think in Italy, from someone to whom we had offered it for serialization."

'A Nice Book'

He said he explained to Mr. Linowitz that there was nothing in the book to disturb Mrs. Kennedy, that Miss Shaw had "just wanted to write a nice book" and that she had never promised not to write one.

However, Mr. Borissow agreed to come to New York to "discuss it with Mrs. Kennedy, because we were anxious not to upset her unnecessarily."

In September, 1965, Mr. Borissow came to New York, he said, stayed for a week and conferred with three representatives of Mrs. Kennedy in Mr. Linowitz's suite at the Hotel Pierre.

Mr. Borissow never spoke directly with Mrs. Kennedy or a member of the Kennedy family about the Shaw book, he said.

The Kennedy representatives at the conference, he said, were Mrs. Kennedy's secretary, Miss Pamela Turnure; Mr. Linowitz, and "a man from the Attorney General's office whose first name was Frank—I don't remember his last name—a very nice chap."

Miss Turnure refused last night to confirm or deny that she had attended the conference, saying only that she had "no comment."

Mr. Linowitz, who is now United States delegate to the Organization of American States, could not be reached.

As a result of the conference, according to Mr. Borissow, "about 100 words were deleted, small details, nothing important, principally about how the children were told about the assassination."

At the time of the assassination reporters did not know who had told the children about it.

Miss Shaw relates in the book, which was published here by New American Library in April, 1966, that she told Caroline. She had been Caroline's Nannie since the child was 11 days old.

Miss Shaw said Robert F. Kennedy was later delegated to tell John, who "was really too young to understand."

'Little Too Personal'

The deletions from the book were things "Mrs. Kennedy considered a little too personal," Mr. Borissow said.

In London, during Mr. Borissow's conversation with Mr. Linowitz, "there was some threat of injunction" against publication of the book, the publisher said.

"I told him 'I don't think you'd succeed, and I don't think it would be proper for you to try,' and I promised to try to accommodate her as far as I thought reasonable."

Before publication of the American edition of the book, it was serialized in the Ladies' Home Journal.

At that time Miss Turnure said Mrs. Kennedy had made "discreet inquiries" about the possibility of the book not being written.

Editors of the Ladies' Home Journal and the New American Library refused to comment yesterday on whether Mrs. Kennedy had approached them before publication.

Miss Shaw, a Malta-born Englishwoman, retired to her family's native Kent in May,

1965, after seven years in the John F. Kennedy household.

Mr. Borissow said last night that Miss Shaw had been asked by Americans, soon after she retired, to write about her time with the Kennedys and had written to Mrs. Kennedy to ask if she had any objections.

"Mrs. Kennedy wrote and said 'I'd rather you didn't do it, it would make capital out of the children,'" Mr. Borissow said.

"Three months later, Miss Shaw decided she had a nice story to tell," he continued. He added that he was "surprised there was anything in it to upset Mrs. Kennedy. I thought it had been done most tastefully."

When she was here last April, Miss Shaw said that as the shock of the President's death abated, she would talk to Caroline and John Jr. about their father.

Caroline wanted to know what her father was doing in Heaven and whether his back was all right now, she recalled. John Jr., knowing that his father was fond of fish chowder, asked, "Will Daddy get fish chowder in Heaven?"