

KENNEDY DELAYS BOOK OF SPEECHES

Move Attributed to Dispute
With Harper & Row

By HENRY RAYMONT

Senator Robert F. Kennedy has asked Harper & Row to halt publication of a book containing his major speeches on national and international affairs.

The action came as an apparent result of the dispute between the Kennedy family and the 150-year-old publishing house over William Manchester's "The Death of a President." Harper & Row will publish the book in April after Mr. Manchester removes certain personal recollections at the request of Mrs. John F. Kennedy.

An announcement of the publication of the Senator's book, "New Problems, New Proposals," appeared in the publishing house's winter catalogue, "New Harper Books," which came out last November.

Frank Mankiewicz, Mr. Kennedy's press secretary, said yesterday that Mr. Kennedy had requested that the publication of his book be "postponed indefinitely." He gave as a reason the Senator's desire to revise the manuscript and add a few speeches, particularly his most recent pronouncements on the Vietnam war.

However, other sources close to Mr. Kennedy, said that he

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had withdrawn the book as a result of the furor that erupted when his sister-in-law, the widow of President Kennedy, instituted legal action against Harper & Row to block publication of Mr. Manchester's book unless the author made certain deletions. A compromise was eventually reached and the suit was dropped.

But the incident, according to these sources, shook the long friendship between the Kennedy family and the chairman of the executive committee and the vice-president of Harper & Row, Cass Canfield and Evan Thomas. Harper & Row had also published the works of President Kennedy and three previous books by Robert F. Kennedy, and three previous books by Robert F. Kennedy.

Spokesmen for the Senator and the publishing house were guarded in their public comments yesterday. The Senator was not reached for comment.

Mr. Mankiewicz merely said, "We have no firm plans for the book and we don't think any are imminent."

Asked if the manuscript would be offered to another publisher, he replied: "We really don't know yet. Eventually the book will come out, but it's too soon to say when or who will publish it."

Mr. Thomas, who left yesterday for a vacation in Antigua, said he felt no rancor toward Senator Kennedy. He said he still had the manuscript but acknowledged that plans for its publication were discontinued.

"The first indication that there would be a delay came last December when the Senator failed to send us the introduction to the book," he added.

"We sent some inquiries to Washington but received no reply."

After waiting for several weeks and on the basis of private communications with the Senator's staff, Harper & Row decided to drop the book from the winter schedule, Mr. Thomas said.

As an indication of the "relaxed and friendly relationship" with the Senator, he pointed out that no contract had been drawn up.

"Ever since 1962 when we published his first book we'd go into print first and sign the contract afterwards," he added. "We shall always be ready to publish the new book if Mr. Kennedy wants us to. They are good speeches and ought to be published. But if he takes them somewhere else I suppose we won't be brokenhearted."

The publishing house's winter catalogue said the book would contain several speeches Mr. Kennedy had made on the Senate floor and during his trips to South Africa and Latin America on such issues as civil rights, economic and social reform and the hazards of nuclear war.

"All these speeches," the Harper catalogue said, "impart a clear-eyed, creative approach to grave issues, a strong sense of reality, courage and commitment and, most importantly, the conviction that youth and the young spirit everywhere will face up to the process of revolutionary change to ensure equal opportunities for all."

The only explicit reference to Vietnam was Mr. Kennedy's Senate speech urging the Administration to accept the participation of the Vietcong in a coalition government as a condition for peace negotiations. The speech was made last April and since then the Senator has become more open in his disagreement with President Johnson's Vietnam policy.

Some sources in the publishing trade did not rule out the possibility that Senator Kennedy may have decided to postpone the publication of his book to avert a more obvious rift with the Johnson Administration.

The Senator was harshly attacked for some of his foreign policy speeches by James A. Farley, a senior Democratic leader last Sunday. Mr. Farley denounced Mr. Kennedy for "undermining" President Johnson's foreign policy by voicing criticisms during his trips abroad.