

Author of Kennedy book refuses further changes

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NEW YORK — William Manchester, according to good authority, is convinced he cannot make any more changes in his book on the assassination of President Kennedy without betraying his understanding of history and his interpretation of the late President's attitude toward important events.

He is convinced, according to sources close to him, that in his book "Death of a President" he has already made all the changes and deletions required of his contractual and ethical obligations to the Kennedy family.

MANCHESTER was selected by the family in 1964 to do the book on President Kennedy's assassination in the interest of "accuracy and good taste." The family reserved the right, in a contract between Manchester and Sen. Robert Kennedy, D-N.Y., to approve the manuscript before publication by Harper & Row, publishers.

The 44-year-old writer has already acceded to a number of changes and deletions requested by the family in the 300,000-word book and the four-part serialization of 80,000 words scheduled to begin in Look magazine Jan. 10.

Despite the continuing objections by the President's widow and by Robert Kennedy, which have resulted in the opening of court action to restrain publication, Manchester is said to bear no ill will toward the family but is reported to be hostile toward two of the Kennedy advisers on the project, Richard Goodwin and Theodore Sorensen.

THE WRITER, according to close friends, is convinced that Sen. Kennedy is upset at the opposition to the book by Mrs. Kennedy but is unable to control her.

Manchester is also said to believe that Mrs. Kennedy is inclined to exaggerate her contribution to the book for which Look has paid \$365,000 for serial rights.

The writer had 10 hours of taped interviews with Mrs. Kennedy. Manchester censored much of this material voluntarily as "an unwar-

ranted invasion of privacy," to be turned over to the John F. Kennedy Memorial Library, in Cambridge, Mass.

According to persons close to the controversy, Manchester does not think "Death of a President" is prejudicial to President Johnson. It has been reported that Sen. Kennedy is concerned lest the book be construed as a display of antipathy by him toward Johnson.

ACCORDING TO persons deeply involved in the dispute, Manchester believes that those who dislike Johnson will find material in the book to support their attitude. At the same time, the author is said to believe that those who favor Johnson will also find backing in "Death of a President."

Persons in a position to know the writer's feelings say he was particularly appalled by the scope and variety of the changes requested several weeks ago by the Kennedy family while he was in London.

These changes were reported to

have been collated by Goodwin from suggestions and requests made by Mrs. Kennedy, the senator and their advisers. The changes were brought to him, it was said, by Cass Canfield, head of Harper & Row, and Ivan Thomas, editorial vice president of Harper & Row.

Manchester was said to have expressed the opinion that if all these suggestions were followed, the deletions in the Look serials would run to 60 per cent of the text and the magazine excerpts would become unusable.

Mrs. Kennedy's suggestions, according to persons in a position to know, were concerned mainly with phrasing, rather than with deletions. One suggestion, according to this source, dealt with the period shortly after the death of her husband when, exhausted and still in her bloodstained clothes, she made her way to the presidential plane. She went to the rear of the plane, where there was a bed.

There, according to persons who have read this portion of the manuscript, Johnson was on the bed, telephoning for legal advice about how and when to be sworn in as the new president.

Manchester's manuscript was reported to have said that Johnson was "sprawling" on the bed. Mrs. Kennedy was said to have suggested that the word be changed to "reclining."
