

Mrs. Kennedy distraught after reading from book

New York Times News Service

NEW YORK — Mrs. John Kennedy apparently read some passages from "Death of a President" yesterday at a meeting with representatives of Look magazine. She left the meeting in tears, visibly upset.

The meeting was held in a law office on Wall Street. Mrs. Kennedy, accompanied by Simon Rifkind, her lawyer, and Richard Goodwin, an adviser, arrived at 1:15, a little later than expected.

WHEN SHE LEFT the office about two hours later, she stared at the ground, refused to talk and climbed quickly into the rear seat of a dark blue Oldsmobile.

After Mrs. Kennedy had left, Rifkind said that Look had just given her access to the disputed material in "Death of a President," the story of the assassination of her husband, which the magazine plans to begin serializing Jan. 10.

On Friday, Mrs. Kennedy filed suit in State Supreme Court to prevent the serialization and to bar Harper & Row, publishers, from publishing the book this spring.

In her affidavit, Mrs. Kennedy said that she had not read "Death of a President." She also said that Cowles Communications, publishers of Look, had not shown any of her representatives the material it planned to use in the serialization.

THE MEETING was held in the office of David Peck, a member of the law firm of Sullivan & Cromwell, which is representing Look. Peck is a former justice in the Appellate Court of New York.

Rifkind said: "One of the problems was that we did not have access to the material. Judge Peck gave us access to the material. Mrs. Kennedy came along to look at it.

"When we asked a question about the material she was available. I am studying the material now. I expect to read as much of it as possible."

Rifkind observed that Mrs. Kennedy was upset and said the meeting had been arranged quickly and privately.

"There were no settlement discussions," he said. "It was just an opportunity to discuss the material."

"MRS. KENNEDY has said that William Manchester, who wrote "Death of a President," had violated her rights and confidence and "exploited" the emotional state she had found herself in after the assassination of her husband.

Mrs. Kennedy and Sen. Robert Kennedy, D-N.Y., had authorized the book and had agreed in a memorandum that no member of the Kennedy family would assist any other author in writing an account of the assassination.

According to one source involved in the legal dispute, Look Magazine had refused to make any further revisions in the material it plans to serialize. Mrs. Kennedy contends that she has never approved the publication of any part of "Death of a President."

However, when asked what Look's position was on further changes, Rifkind said only that "I cannot answer that question."

It is known that, as early as last August, Mrs. Kennedy began to telephone officials of Look with some frequency, asking them to delete passages in "Death of a President."

IN PARTICULAR, she was agitated about sections that dealt with the trip from Dallas to Washington aboard Air Force One, the jet that carried her husband's body after the assassination.

It is understood that Look agreed to make revisions in the manuscript in September and that Mrs. Kennedy then began to exert new pressure on the magazine to suppress the entire serialization.

Besides Mrs. Kennedy's objections to the use of her personal recollections in the manuscript, it has been reported that Robert Kennedy was unhappy with some passages concerning President Johnson. These picture Johnson as having been rude and overbearing.

Sen. Kennedy and his associates are said to believe that this could only cause new tensions between the Johnsons and the Kennedys.

However, columnist James Res-

ton reports today that Bill D. Moyers, Johnson's press secretary, has read the passages dealing with Johnson. Reston said the President undoubtedly knows about them.

COMMENTING on Mrs. Kennedy's suit, Edward Greenbaum, the attorney for Harper & Row, said that "there's never been a case like this before."

Greenbaum said he would file his answers to the suit this week, probably on Thursday.

"You'll know what our defense is when you see it," he said.

However, it is expected the publishers will contend that Mrs. Kennedy and Senator Kennedy gave

their permission to publish in a telegram that Kennedy sent to Manchester last summer. The telegram said that members of the Kennedy family would "place no obstacle" in the way of publication.

Kennedy, however, contended in an affidavit he filed in support of Mrs. Kennedy that the telegram did not mention the date of publication and that it did not void the original contract. This states that the book will not be published until Nov. 22, 1968, five years after the assassination.