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NEW YORK, DEC. 19 (AP)-HERE IS THE TEXT OF THE STATEMENT BY A SPOKESMAN FOR THE KENNEDY FAMILY ON "THE DEATH OF A PRESIDENT" CONTROVERSY:

"NO AMOUNT OF RHETORIC ABOUT 'HISTORICAL ACCURACY' OR THE PUBLIC'S 'RIGHT TO KNOW' CAN ALTER THE NATURE OF THIS CONTROVERSY--WHETHER MR. MANCHESTER AND THE PUBLISHERS BROKE THE WRITTEN AGREEMENT, FROM WHICH BREACH ENORMOUS PROFITS WILL APPARENTLY FLOW.

"THE QUESTION IS NOT THE BOOK'S 'RIGHT TO LIVE'--NO ONE HAS DENIED THAT RIGHT--THE QUESTION IS HE RIGHT OF MRS. KENNEDY AND HER CHILDREN TO LIVE WITH A MINIMUM OF PRIVACY AND DIGNITY, FREE FROM THE PUBLICATION OF INTIMATE DETAILS OF THEIR LIVES AT A TIME OF GREAT SORROW--DETAILS WHICH BEAR NO CONCEIVABLE RELATION TO HISTORY.

"ALTHOUGH NEITHER SEN. KENNEDY NOR MRS. KENNEDY HAS READ THE MANCHESTER MANU SCRIPT IN ITS

MANCHESTER MANU SCRIPT IN ITS ENTIRETY--AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES HAVING DONE SO--BOTH MANCHESTER AND THE PUBLISHERS KNEW THAT MRS. KENNEDY WAS WELL AWARE OF THE PERSONAL PASSAGES TO WHICH SHE OBJECTED. INDEED, MRS. KENNEDY SPOKE DIRECTLY TO MANCHESTER ON AT LEAST ONE OCCASION, OUTLINING HER OBJECTIONS TO THOSE PARTS OF THE MANUSCRIPT WHICH SHE FELT UNNECESSARILY INVADED HER PRIVACY AND THAT OF HER CHILDREN. AND ALTHOUGH HE AGREED TO DELETE THEM FROM THE PUBLISHED VERSION, NEITHER MANCHESTER NOR HARPER & ROW NOR LOOK MAGAZINE HAS DONE SO, OR HAVE THEY EVEN, IN THE PERIOD OF THIS DISPUTE, PERMITTED MRS. KENNEDY OR HER REPRESENTATIVES ACCESS TO THE MANUSCRIPT. AND THIS DESPITE REPEATED ASSURANCE THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE PERIOD BY HARPER & ROW THAT THE CONTRACT WOULD BE HONORED. SINCE REPRESENTATIVES OF HARPER & ROW PARTICIPATED IN MAKING THE AGREEMENT THIS LAW SUIT IS BASED ON, IT IS SURPRISING THAT MR. CANFIELD'S STATEMENT DOES NOT MENTION IT."

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