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Publisher's Side in The Book Dispute

New York

The publisher of "The Death of a President" declared yesterday his intention to bring out the book "in the interest of histori-

cal accuracy and of the people's right to know" in spite of Jacqueline Kennedy's court battle to suppress it.

The newest skirmish over

the book was led by Cass Canfield, chairman of the executive committee of Harper & Row publishers, which was handpicked by the Kennedy family to publish William Manchester's "official" history of President Kennedy's assassination.

Canfield was long a friend of the former First Lady and the father-in-law of her sister, Princess Lee Radziwill, during the years of her first marriage.

STATEMENT

"We join him (Manchester) in defending the book's right to live," Canfield said in a statement read to the press at the Overseas Press Club.

"Understandably the members of the Kennedy family were unwilling to read the manuscript themselves and hence they designated representatives to do this for them. Had they read it themselves, the present situation might have been avoided."

Canfield said his experience in connection with the book, due to be serialized by Look magazine in less than a month, was "the most trying and distressing one" in his 40-year publishing career. He said he wished the

public to know "how badly I feel" that Mrs. Kennedy is "upset."

CRITICISM

Although Canfield's statement was polite, it had an undertone of criticism in regard to some of the statements made by Mrs. Kennedy and her brothers-in-law, Senators Robert F. and Edward M. Kennedy, regarding the commercial motives behind the rush to publication of a book that was not, by agreement to have come out until 1968. Robert Kennedy had been quoted as saying:

"He (Manchester) kept saying that he didn't want to make a penny out of it. But apparently \$650,000 makes a difference."

Canfield denied that Manchester had received anywhere the reported \$650,000 as an advance on the book. He said Harper & Row actually had given the author \$40,000.

"Harper & Row was not motivated by profit when it undertook publication of the book," the publisher said. "On the contrary, all Harper profits will go to the Kennedy Library except for a small return to Harper's on our first printing."

United Press