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SECOND NIGHT LEAD KENNEDY BOOK (A19)

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK, DEC. 20 (AP)-HOPES FOR AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN LOOK MAGAZINE AND MRS. JOHN F. KENNEDY IN THEIR DISPUTE OVER PUBLICATION OF THE BOOK, "THE DEATH OF A PRESIDENT," APPEARED TO HAVE BRIGHTENED AFTER MEETINGS TODAY, IT WAS LEARNED.

SOURCES CLOSE TO BOTH SIDES TOLD THE ASSOCIATED PRESS TONIGHT THAT RICHARD GOODWIN, A FORMER AIDE TO PRESIDENT KENNEDY, MET WITH TOP OFFICIALS OF LOOK TODAY.

"SO LONG AS PEOPLE TALK THERE ARE INDICATIONS THERE MIGHT BE A SETTLEMENT," ONE SOURCE SAID. "GOOD WILL IS BEING SHOWN. I THINK EVERYONE IS TRYING TO BE REASONABLE."

ONE SOURCE SAID THE KENNEDY FAMILY APPEARED TO HAVE YIELDED SLIGHTLY IN THE PAST FEW DAYS. ASKED ABOUT THIS, ANOTHER SOURCE SAID:

"I THINK THERE WAS A LOT OF MISUNDERSTANDING BEFORE. THAT'S BEEN CLEARED UP. NOW THAT EVERYBODY HAS HAD A CHANCE TO TALK, THINGS ARE A LOT BETTER.

"WE'VE BEEN TALKING A LONG TIME ABOUT PHRASING. BUT DON'T FORGET IT'S MANCHESTER'S (AUTHOR WILLIAM MANCHESTER) PROSE. HE HAS THE FINAL WORD ON WHAT'S GOING INTO IT."

THE SOURCE SAID MANCHESTER WAS NOT AT THE MEETINGS TODAY, BUT THAT HE WAS BEING KEPT INFORMED.

REPRESENTATIVES OF HARPER & ROW, THE SECOND PUBLISHER NAMED IN A SUIT FILED LAST FRIDAY BY MRS. KENNEDY TO BLOCK PUBLICATION OF THE BOOK AND ITS SERIALIZATION, DID NOT TAKE PART IN THE MEETINGS TODAY.

NEGOTIATIONS TO SETTLE THE DISPUTE ARE NEARING THE CRISIS POINT, AND EARLIER TODAY THERE WERE NO INDICATIONS THAT EITHER SIDE WOULD GIVE GROUND SHORT OF A COURT HEARING.

THE KENNEDY FAMILY APPARENTLY FEELS THERE IS MORE URGENCY IN SETTLING THE DISAGREEMENT WITH LOOK THAN THE ONE WITH HARPER & ROW. LOOK IS GOING AHEAD WITH PLANS TO PUBLISH A FOUR-PART 60,000 (CQ)-WORD SERIALIZATION TO BEGIN IN THE ISSUE THAT WILL REACH THE NEWSSTANDS JAN. 10. HARPER & ROW PLANS TO BRING OUT THE FULL 300,000-WORD TEXT IN HARDBACK BOOKS BEGINNING NEXT APRIL. THE BOOK OF THE MONTH CLUB WILL PAY HARPER & ROW \$250,000 FOR REPRINT RIGHTS.

EARLIER TODAY, DON CONGDON, A LITERARY AGENT FOR MANCHESTER, SAID THE AUTHOR IS DETERMINED TO RESIST CHANGES IN THE BOOK DEMANDED BY MRS. KENNEDY, WHO ALLEGES INVASION OF PRIVACY AND BREACH OF CONTRACT.

"HE IS TRYING TO PROTECT HIS INTEGRITY," SAID CONGDON. "YOU MUST UNDERSTAND, THIS BOOK IS HIS OFFSPRING."

A SOURCE CLOSE TO THE KENNEDY FAMILY INDICATED THAT IF MANCHESTER HOLDS FIRM, MRS. KENNEDY AND HER BROTHER-IN-LAW, SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY, D-N.Y., WILL PRESS THEIR PETITION FOR AN INJUNCTION TO BLOCK PUBLICATION.

"NOBODY--THAT'S BOTH SIDES--RELISHES BRINGING THIS TO COURT," THE SOURCE SAID. "HOPEFULLY IT WILL BE SETTLED. BUT IT REVOLVES AROUND PERSONAL THINGS THAT MRS. KENNEDY THINKS ARE NOT A PART OF HISTORY.

"THERE WILL BE NO PARTIAL INJUNCTIONS HERE. THAT MEANS IT'S ALL OR NOTHING IF THERE IS A TRIAL--EITHER MRS. KENNEDY WINS OR THEY DO."

A HEARING ON THE KENNEDY SUIT AGAINST MANCHESTER, A 44-YEAR-OLD FORMER NEWSMAN, AND TWO PUBLISHERS IS SET FOR NEXT TUESDAY BEFORE A MANHATTAN JUDGE OF THE NEW YORK SUPREME COURT.

MRS. KENNEDY IS REPORTED TO BE DEMANDING DELETION OF LARGE SECTIONS OF THE MANCHESTER BOOK--BY ONE ACCOUNT, UP TO 10,000 WORDS --WHICH SHE CONTENDS ARE TOO INTIMATELY PERSONAL FOR PUBLICATION.

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SECTIONS TO WHICH SHE OBJECTS INCLUDE QUOTATIONS FROM A LOVE LETTER TO HER HUSBAND AND AN ACCOUNT IN HER OWN WORDS OF THE LAST NIGHT THEY SPENT TOGETHER BEFORE AN ASSASSIN'S BULLET CUT HIM DOWN IN DALLAS, TEX., ON NOV. 22, 1963.

CO-DEFENDANTS WITH MANCHESTER ARE LOOK MAGAZINE, WHICH PLANNED AN 80,000-WORD SERIALIZATION OF PARTS OF THE BOOK IN AN ISSUE SCHEDULED TO REACH THE NEWSSTANDS JAN. 10, AND HARPER & ROW, THE PUBLISHING FIRM WHICH ARRANGED TO BRING OUT THE FULL 300,000-WORD HARD COVER VERSION IN APRIL.

LOOK MAGAZINE ESTIMATED TODAY ITS LOSSES, IF IT IS RESTRAINED FROM PUBLISHING THE SERIAL VERSION, WOULD RUN \$3 MILLION TO \$5 MILLION IN ADVERTISING AND SALES.

A SPOKESMAN SAID LOOK WILL FILE BY THURSDAY A SCHEDULE OF THESE ESTIMATED LOSSES IN STATE SUPREME COURT. IF A SUBSEQUENT INJUNCTION PREVENTS PUBLICATION OF THE SERIAL VERSION, LOOK THEN COULD SEEK THROUGH THE COURT TO RECOVER ITS LOSSES FROM MRS. KENNEDY.

DEFEAT IN COURT WOULD BE COSTLY TO MANCHESTER, TOO. UNDER HIS CONTRACT SELLING SERIAL RIGHTS TO THE MAGAZINE FOR \$665,000, HE IS LIABLE FOR THE EXPENSES OF ANY COURT ACTION.

ADDITIONALLY, MANCHESTER WOULD BE DEPRIVED OF POSSIBLY MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN FURTHER EARNINGS. DELL BOOKS IS REPORTED TO HAVE BID \$1 MILLION FOR PAPERBACK REPRINT RIGHTS ALONE.

MANCHESTER DID NOT EXPECT MUCH RETURN FROM THE SALE OF THE HARD COVER BOOK. HE HAS ANNOUNCED THAT HE WOULD GIVE THE BULK OF THE PROFITS ON THIS TO THE KENNEDY MEMORIAL LIBRARY.

IN BOSTON LAST NIGHT, MRS. KENNEDY'S YOUNGER BROTHER-IN-LAW, SEN. EDWARD M. KENNEDY, D-MASS, SAID IN AN INTERVIEW ON STATION WHDH-TV "I'M HOPEFUL THAT SOMEDAY THE BOOK WILL BE PUBLISHED."

KENNEDY SAID HE THOUGHT MRS. KENNEDY AND HIS BROTHER FELT THE SAME WAY, BUT DECLARED:

"SHE WANTED TO HAVE THE EVENTS SURROUNDING 1963 TO BE RECORDED FOR HISTORY. SHE WANTED TO BE ABLE TO REVEAL TO SOMEONE THAT SHE DID HAVE A SENSE OF CONFIDENCE IN AND WHO WAS AN EXCELLENT WRITER HER INNERMOST THOUGHTS, SO THAT HE WOULD BE ABLE TO HAVE BACKGROUND, PERSPECTIVE TO WRITE THE HISTORY OF THIS PERIOD OF TIME.

"BUT IT WAS ALSO HER VERY EARNEST HOPE AND WISH THAT HER VERY PERSONAL RECOLLECTIONS, WHICH AREN'T REALLY NECESSARY TO HISTORICAL ACCURACY IN THIS EVENT, THAT SHE WOULD HAVE A SAY IN WHAT WAS TO BE USED IN THIS SENSE.

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"AND THAT'S REALLY WHAT SHE IS MOST SENSITIVE TO AND I THINK SHE IS TRYING TO PROTECT AND THAT IS THE VERY DETAILED RIGHT OF PRIVACY IN THIS RESPECT."

THE KENNEDYS SAY THAT UNDER AN AGREEMENT REACHED BEFORE HE STARTED WRITING THE BOOK, MANCHESTER GAVE THEM A RIGHT OF VETO ON CONTENT AND PUBLICATION TIME.

MANCHESTER CLAIMS THAT THIS AGREEMENT WAS SUPERSEDED BY A GO-AHEAD IN A TELEGRAM LAST JULY FROM SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY. THE SENATOR DENIES THAT ANYTHING IN THE TELEGRAM COULD HAVE BEEN CONSTRUED AS A WAIVER OF THE FAMILY'S RIGHTS TO REVIEW THE MANUSCRIPT AND TO SAY WHEN IT COULD BE PUBLISHED.

CASS CONFIELD, CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF HARPER & ROW, SAID IN A STATEMENT LAST NIGHT:

"IN THE INTEREST OF HISTORICAL ACCURACY AND OF THE PEOPLE'S RIGHT TO KNOW THE TRUE FACTS OF THE AWESOME TRAGEDY--THE RIGHT TO KNOW WHICH LED THE KENNEDY FAMILY TO REQUEST MR. MANCHESTER TO WRITE HIS BOOK AND US TO PUBLISH IT--WE JOIN WITH HIM IN DEFENDING THE BOOK'S RIGHT TO LIVE."

RETORTED A SPOKESMAN FOR THE KENNEDY FAMILY:

"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."

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