

(380)

NEW YORK, DEC. 20 (AP)--THE TEXT OF THE STATEMENT ISSUED YESTERDAY BY CASS CANFIELD, CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF HARPER & ROW CONCERNING WILLIAM MANCHESTER'S BOOK ON THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY:

"MY EXPERIENCE IN CONNECTION WITH 'THE DEATH OF A PRESIDENT'

HAS BEEN THE MOST TRYING AND DISTRESSING ONE IN A 40-YEAR PUBLISHING CAREER, AND EVAN THOMAS, THE EDITOR OF THE BOOK AT HARPER & ROW, SHARES MY DISTRESS. WE TAKE GREAT PRIDE IN BEING THE PUBLISHERS OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S GREAT BOOK, 'PROFILES IN COURAGE,' AND OF BOOKS BY SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY. WHEN THE KENNEDY FAMILY ASKED US TO PUBLISH THE MANCHESTER BOOK AND WE AGREED TO DO SO, THEY WERE ASKING US TO ASSUME THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF A PUBLISHER. IT IS A FUNCTION WE HAVE EXERCISED HONORABLY AND PROFESSIONALLY OVER ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY YEARS.

"I WANT TO STRESS HOW VERY BADLY I FEEL THAT MRS. KENNEDY, FOR WHOM I HAVE SUCH DEEP REGARD AND RESPECT, IS SO DISTURBED ABOUT THE BOOK. THE PRINCIPALS INVOLVED IN THIS DISPUTE ARE ALL PEOPLE FOR WHOM I HAVE DEEP REGARD AND ADMIRATION AND MR. MANCHESTER'S BOOK ITSELF IS A MOVING, SINCERE AND OUTSTANDING PIECE OF WRITING. HE HAS BEEN SUBJECT TO MANY REPEATED PRESSURES FOR MANY MONTHS. HE WAS ASKED TO PREPARE FOR PUBLICATION AN ACCURATE ACCOUNT OF THE EVENTS OF THE ASSASSINATION AND HE WAS ASSU

ACCOUNT OF THE EVENTS OF THE ASSASSINATION AND HE WAS ASSURED THAT HIS ROLE AS AUTHOR WOULD BE RESPECTED.

EB7

"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.

"HARPER & ROW WAS NOT MOTIVATED BY PROFIT WHEN IT UNDERTOOK THE PUBLICATION OF THIS BOOK. ON THE CONTRARY, ALL HARPER PROFITS WILL GO TO THE KENNEDY LIBRARY, EXCEPT FOR A SMALL RETURN TO HARPER'S ON ITS FIRST PRINTING. IN NO EVENT WILL THIS LIMIT BE EXCEEDED. MR. MANCHESTER IS ALSO MAKING SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE LIBRARY

FROM HIS EARNINGS ON THE BOOK. INCIDENTALLY, HARPER & ROW'S  
ADVANCE TO HIM WAS \$40,000 AND NOT THE \$675,000 ERRONEOUSLY  
REPORTED BY THE PRESS.

"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."

JQ141ACS