

Statements by Mrs. Kennedy and Cowles

Following are texts of statements issued Wednesday night by representatives of Mrs. John F. Kennedy and Gardner Cowles, chairman of the board of Cowles Communications, Inc., on settlement of the dispute over serialization of excerpts from "The Death of a President" in Look magazine:

Kennedy Statement

Look magazine has agreed to remove or modify all those passages in the magazine version of "The Death of a President" relating to the personal life of Mrs. John F. Kennedy and her children. These paragraphs were the sole reasons for the initiation of her legal action.

Since every passage of a personal nature under contention for several months was either deleted by Look, or changed to her satisfaction, Mrs. Kennedy has withdrawn her suit.

No material of historical significance has been altered nor has the historical record been impaired in the slightest by the modifications and deletions.

Neither Mrs. Kennedy nor Senator Robert F. Kennedy

has in any way approved or endorsed the material in the Look articles, based upon "The Death of a President."

The author, William Manchester, and the publisher of Look magazine have assumed complete and sole responsibility.

Mrs. Kennedy said, "I have been told there are historical inaccuracies and unfair references in this book. That they have been written is unfortunate. However, it was clear before bringing this suit that historical judgments, even if inaccurate, could not properly be suppressed by a court of law. In time, history will deal fairly and justly with this period."

Cowles Statement

Following a series of meetings between Mrs. Kennedy, her advisers and Look editors, several changes in the text of the Look serialization were mutually agreed on. These changes, involving approximately 1,600 out of 80,000 authorized words, in no way affected the historical accuracy or completeness of Mr. Manchester's manuscript.

They concern only the passages to which Mrs. Kennedy

objected on personal grounds.

We are satisfied with the outcome of the discussions. Mr. Manchester's book is a report of great value and meaning for all Americans. I am glad this dispute is behind us and that there has been no censorship of history.

As the result of our discussion with Mrs. Kennedy and her representatives, Mr. Manchester's superb job of reporting remains intact. We wish to make it clear that neither Mrs. Kennedy nor Senator Robert Kennedy nor any member of her family has in any way approved or endorsed material appearing in Look's serialization, for which the publishers of Look assume complete and sole responsibility.

I hope that the controversy between the Kennedy family and Harper & Row will be speedily resolved because Cass Canfield [chairman of the executive committee of Harper & Row, Publishers, Inc.] has been extremely helpful in the discussions concerning the serialization.

The public should not be deprived of the opportunity to read Mr. Manchester's manuscript.