

MANCHESTER

24 DEC. 1966

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FIRST LEAD KENNEDY BOOK
BY GEORGE ESPER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

NEW YORK, DEC. 24 (AP)-THE CHIEF COUNSEL FOR MRS. JOHN F. KENNEDY TODAY STUDIED A REVISED MANUSCRIPT OF THE BOOK "THE DEATH OF A PRESIDENT" IN AN EFFORT TO SETTLE THE CONTROVERSY OUT OF COURT.

THE MANUSCRIPT WAS DELIVERED TO THE LAWYER, SIMON H. RIFKIND, BEFORE REPRESENTATIVES OF MRS. KENNEDY, HARPER & ROW, THE PUBLISHERS, AND WILLIAM MANCHESTER, THE AUTHOR, BEGAN NEGOTIATIONS THAT LASTED UNTIL LATE LAST NIGHT.

"THERE WAS PROGRESS LAST NIGHT," SAID A SOURCE CLOSE TO THE NEGOTIATIONS. "THERE IS A GOOD DEAL OF MUTUAL SENTIMENT THAT THE DIFFERENCES CAN BE RESOLVED."

BY LATE MORNING TODAY THE NEGOTIATIONS HAD NOT RESUMED. REPORTEDLY, MEETINGS WERE TO BE HELD TODAY, BUT NO FIRM TIME OR PLACE FOR THE SESSIONS HAD BEEN SET BEFORE NOON.

"I'VE BEEN ASKED TO STAND BY, BUT NO MEETINGS HAVE BEEN SCHEDULED YET, RIFKIND SAID.

THE SOURCE SAID HE FELT CERTAIN THAT SOME MEETINGS BETWEEN THE NEGOTIATORS WOULD BE HELD TODAY.

RIFKIND SAID EARLIER HE HAD RECEIVED THE PROPOSED MANUSCRIPT. "IT SHOWS SOME CHANGES ON THE FACE OF IT," HE SAID.

RIFKIND DECLINED ETC. 3RD GRAF A37..

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PMS BUDGET (750)

KENNEDY BOOK

BY GEORGE ESPER

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

NEW YORK, DEC. 24 (AP)-THE CHIEF COUNSEL FOR MRS. JOHN F. KENNEDY STUDIED TODAY A REVISED MANUSCRIPT OF THE BOOK, "THE DEATH OF A PRESIDENT," PROPOSED BY THE PUBLISHERS, HARPER & ROW, IN EFFORTS TO SETTLE THE CONTROVERSY OUT OF COURT.

"WE HAVE RECEIVED THE TEXT OF THE PROPOSED MANUSCRIPT,"

SAID ATTORNEY SIMON H. RIFKIND. "IT SHOWS SOME CHANGES ON THE FACE OF IT."

RIFKIND DECLINED TO DISCUSS THE CHANGES, BUT MOST OF THEM WERE BELIEVED TO INVOLVE THE PERSONAL LIFE AND EMOTIONS OF MRS. KENNEDY.

PERSONAL PASSAGES WERE MODIFIED IN AN OUT-OF-COURT SETTLEMENT MRS. KENNEDY REACHED WITH LOOK MAGAZINE LAST WEEK THAT WILL ALLOW LOOK TO GO AHEAD AS SCHEDULED WITH ITS FOUR-PART, 60,000-WORD SERIALIZATION BEGINNING WITH THE ISSUE THAT REACHES NEWSSTANDS JAN. 10.

REPRESENTATIVES OF HARPER & ROW AND MRS. KENNEDY NEGOTIATED UNTIL EARLY LAST NIGHT, THEN RECESSED.

RIFKIND SAID HE WAS READY TO RESUME TODAY. HE SAIS IT WAS UNLIKELY THAT ANY TALKS WOULD BE HELD CHRISTMAS DAY, IF A SETTLEMENT IS NOT REACHED BEFORE THEN.

"IF WE DON'T RESUME TOMORROW, WE WILL MONDAY," HE SAID YESTERDAY.

MRS. KENNEDY AND HER CHILDREN, CAROLINE AND JOHN JR., PLAN TO LEAVE MONDAY FOR A VACATION IN ANTIGUA IN THE BRITISH WEST INDIES. THEY PLAN TO RETURN JAN. 5.

RIFKIND SAID THAT SOME OF YESTERDAY'S DISCUSSIONS CENTERED ON THE REVISED MANUSCRIPT. HARPER & ROW PLANS TO COME OUT WITH THE 300,000-WORD BOOK IN APRIL.

"THERE HAVE BEEN SOME PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS AMONG THE LAWYERS," SAID RIFKIND, "BUT NOTHING DEFINITIVE. EACH STATED TO THE OTHER THEIR RESPECTIVE PROBLEMS. WE ARE EXPLORING MUTUAL PROBLEMS."

EA38

A MANHATTAN SUPREME COURT HEARING ON MRS. KENNEDY'S SUIT TO BLOCK PUBLICATION OF THE BOOK IS SET FOR TUESDAY, BUT RIFKIND SAID THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE A DELAY MIGHT BE SOUGHT IF NO AGREEMENT IS REACHED BY THEN. ONE SUCH DELAY ON THE FILING OF COURT PAPERS ALREADY HAS BEEN GRANTED PENDING THE NEGOTIATIONS.

MEANWHILE, IT WAS DISCLOSED IN WASHINGTON THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS DISCUSSED WITH THE CHINESE NATIONALIST GOVERNMENT THE POSSIBILITY OF PREVENTING PUBLICATION IN TAIWAN OF AN UNAUTHORIZED VERSION OF AUTHOR WILLIAM MANCHESTER'S BOOK.

STATE DEPARTMENT PRESS OFFICER ROBERT J. MCCLOSKEY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT WITHIN THE LAST FEW DAYS THERE HAS BEEN DISCUSSION OF THE MANUSCRIPT WITH NATIONALIST AUTHORITIES IN TAIPEI.

IT HAD BEEN REPORTED EARLIER FROM TAIPEI THAT THE CHINESE NATIONALIST GOVERNMENT PROBABLY WILL BLOCK ANY ATTEMPT BY FORMOSA'S BOOK PIRATES TO ISSUE AN UNAUTHORIZED REPRINT OF MANCHESTER'S BOOK.

IN ANOTHER DEVELOPMENT, JOSEPH WURZEL, SYNDICATE MANAGER FOR LOOK MAGAZINE, SAID THAT HENRI NANNEN, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF THE WEST GERMAN MAGAZINE STERN, HAS NOT SEEN THE MODIFICATIONS MADE IN THE LOOK SERIALIZATION, WHICH STERN HAS PURCHASED.

STERN HAD SAID EARLIER THAT IT IS STICKING TO ITS PLANS TO PUBLISH THE ORIGINAL SERIALIZATION DESPITE A PROTEST FROM LOOK.

WURZEL SAID THE MODIFICATIONS ARE ON THE WAY TO STERN, AN ILLUSTRATED MAGAZINE WITH A CIRCULATION OF ABOUT 1.6 MILLION.

WURZEL MADE REFERENCE TO A NEW YORK TIMES DISPATCH FROM BONN WHICH QUOTED NANNEN AS SAYING THAT AS FAR AS HE KNEW THE PASSAGES DELETED BY LOOK CONCERNED RELATIONS BETWEEN THE KENNEDY FAMILY AND PRESIDENT JOHNSON.

"PERHAPS THIS WILL NOT BE VERY PLEASANT FOR THE POLITICAL CAREER OF ROBERT KENNEDY, BUT THAT CANNOT KEEP US FROM PRINTING THE HISTORICAL RECORD," NANNEN WAS QUOTED AS SAYING.

"THE POINT IS," SAID WURZEL, "THAT HE (NANNEN) HASN'T SEEN THE DELETIONS WE MADE. THEY ARE ON THE WAY TO HIM. HE IS DRAWING A CONCLUSION. THERE ARE NO CHANGES CONCERNING THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE KENNEDY FAMILY AND PRESIDENT JOHNSON."

EA39

LOOK SAID IN A STATEMENT EARLIER THIS WEEK THAT IT AGREED TO MAKE REQUESTED MODIFICATIONS AND DELETIONS OF ONLY THE PASSAGES THAT MRS. KENNEDY CONSIDERED TOO PERSONAL. IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT SECTIONS OF THE SERIALIZATION REPORTEDLY UNFAVORABLE TO JOHNSON WOULD REMAIN.

WURZEL SAID HE IS PLANNING TO FLY TO WEST GERMANY AS SOON AS MEETINGS COULD BE ARRANGED IN EFFORTS TO DISSUADE NANNEN FROM GOING AHEAD WITH HIS PLANS TO USE THE ORIGINAL SERIALIZATION. HE SAID NANNEN AND ANOTHER TOP EXECUTIVE OF STERN WERE ON VACATION.

"UNDER THE CONTRACT," WURZEL SAID "THEY WERE TO USE THE LOOK SERIALIZATION. THE LOOK SERIALIZATION COMES OUT JAN. 10. THAT IS NOT THE VERSION WHICH STERN HAS."

STERN, WHICH PAID LOOK \$72,000 FOR SERIALIZATION RIGHTS, PLANS TO BEGIN ITS SERIES JAN. 15.

WURZEL SOLD SERIALIZATION RIGHTS THROUGHOUT WESTERN EUROPE. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT UP TO THIS POINT, HE HAS HAD NO PROBLEMS WITH OTHER FIRMS THAT BOUGHT THE SERIALIZATION.

"THE LONDON SUNDAY TIMES," HE SAID, "WHICH PURCHASED IT FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM, MESSAGES US YESTERDAY THAT THEY ARE IN FULL AGREEMENT WITH OUR POSITION. THEY HAVE GIVEN EVERY INDICATION THEY WILL CONFIRM TO THE CHANGES WE HAVE MADE."

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