

AMS BUDGET

NIGHT LEAD KENNEDY BOOK (290)

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NEW YORK, DEC. 24 (AP)--NEGOTIATORS MET TODAY FOR A THIRD EFFORT TO REACH AN OUT OF COURT SETTLEMENT OF MRS. JOHN F. KENNEDY'S SUIT TO BLOCK PUBLICATION OF "THE DEATH OF A PRESIDENT."

AS THE NEGOTIATIONS STRETCHED TO A THIRD DAY IT BECAME INCREASINGLY CLEAR THAT THE MAJOR OBSTACLE TO SETTLEMENT IS THE SHEER VOLUME OF WILLIAM MANCHESTER'S MANUSCRIPT.

THE BOOK, WHICH RELATES THE EVENTS SURROUNDING THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY, IS 300,000 WORDS LONG AND THE MANUSCRIPT RUNS TO MORE THAN A THOUSAND PAGES.

"THE DIFFICULTY IS THAT IT'S JUST A BIG JOB PHYSICALLY TO CITE EACH DISPUTED PASSAGE, DISCUSS IT AND COME TO SOME RESOLUTION ABOUT IT," SAID A SOURCE CLOSE TO THE NEGOTIATIONS.

THE MEANS TO A SETTLEMENT APPARENTLY IS FOR HARPER & ROW, THE PUBLISHERS, AND MANCHESTER TO AGREE TO REMOVAL OR REVISION OF PASSAGES WHICH MRS. KENNEDY CONSIDERS TOO PERSONAL FOR PUBLIC AIRING.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE THREE PARTIES ARE WORKING AGAINST A TUESDAY DEADLINE. WHEN A HEARING IS SCHEDULED ON THE DAMAGE SUIT IN MANHATTAN SUPREME COURT.

THE SOURCE SAID IT APPEARED THAT THE DISPUTE WOULD NOT BE RESOLVED TODAY. HE SAID IT NOW LOOKED "LIKE LATE MONDAY." HE SAID HE DOUBTED THAT THERE WOULD BE ANY MEETINGS CHRISTMAS DAY, "UNLESS IT'S BETWEEN THE LAWYERS."

THE NEGOTIATORS MET UNTIL LATE LAST NIGHT, WITH SOME PROGRESS REPORTED.

REPRESENTATIVES OF MRS. KENNEDY REACHED AN AGREEMENT LATE WEDNESDAY NIGHT WITH COWLES COMMUNICATIONS INC., PUBLISHERS OF LOOK MAGAZINE, WHICH PLANS TO PUBLISH A 60,000-WORD FOUR-PART SERIALIZATION OF THE BOOK BEGINNING WITH THE ISSUE OUT JAN. 10. COWLES COMMUNICATIONS HAD BEEN NAMED AS A DEFENDANT IN THE SUIT, WITH HARPER & ROW AND MANCHESTER.

LOOK AND MRS. KENNEDY COMPROMISED, WITH THE MAGAZINE AGREEING TO DELETE OR REVISE ABOUT 1,600 WORDS.

OTHER PASSAGES IN THE BOOK, SAID TO BE UNFAVORABLE TO PRESIDENT JOHNSON, WILL REMAIN.

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