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Lawyers Optimistic On Kennedy Book

New York

Negotiations between Harper & Row Publishers, Inc., and representatives of the Kennedy family continued through yesterday and last night in an attempt to reach agreement before Christmas.

Spokesmen for both sides in the controversy over publication of the book, "The Death of a President," expressed guarded optimism for an early settlement.

Most of the discussion, it was learned, centered on a revised manuscript given by Harper & Row to former Judge Simon H. Rifkind, who is Mrs. John F. Kennedy's legal representative.

Most of the changes were believed to involve Mrs. Kennedy's personal life.

A spokesman for Harper & Row said the talks would continue today and on Monday, "if necessary." The ne-

gotiators are seeking to reach agreement before a scheduled hearing in State Supreme Court Tuesday on Mrs. Kennedy's suit to block publication of the book.

In her lawsuit, Mrs. Kennedy contended that William Manchester, the author, had violated her rights by going ahead with plans to publish the unapproved manuscript dealing with the assassination of President Kennedy.

Although she admitted that she once had authorized the book, she was now moving against its publication in the interest of "accuracy, good taste and dignity."

Mrs. Kennedy earlier had agreed to withdraw her lawsuit against Look after the magazine had agreed to "remove or modify" the passages that relate to the personal life of herself and her children.

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