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WITH KENNEDY- BOOK
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WASHINGTON, JAN. 16 (AP)-PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING BIOGRAPHER-HISTORIAN ALLAN NEVINS HAS SOME ADVICE FOR THE WRITERS OF "INSTANT HISTORY:" HAMMER OUT YOUR UNDERSTANDINGS IN ADVANCE AND WITH "ABSOLUTE PRECISION."

WILLIAM MANCHESTER APPARENTLY DIDN'T DO THIS, NEVINS VENTURED TODAY, AND THE DISPUTE WITH THE KENNEDY FAMILY OVER HIS BOOK "THE DEATH OF A PRESIDENT" RESULTED.

BUT NEVINS, MEETING WITH NEWSMEN IN ADVANCE OF A LECTURE AT THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, LINED UP FIRMLY ON THE SIDE OF THOSE WHO PLUNGE AHEAD WITH PROMPT ACCOUNTS OF GREAT EVENTS THEY HAVE OBSERVED OR PARTICIPATED IN.

THE BOOKS ON THE PRESIDENCY OF JOHN F. KENNEDY BY THE LATE PRESIDENT'S ASSOCIATES LIKE THEODORE SORENSEN, ARTHUR SCHLESINGER JR. AND PIERRE SALINGER ARE GOOD HISTORY, HE SAID. HE ADDED HE HAS NOT READ ANY PART OF THE MANCHESTER BOOK, WHICH LOOK MAGAZINE HAS BEGUN SERIALIZING.

"THE RIGHTS OF HISTORY HAVE TO BE RESPECTED AS WELL AS THE RIGHTS OF A FAMILY," NEVINS SAID, "BUT ORDINARILY A COMPROMISE CAN BE WORKED OUT--AS IT IS IN THIS CASE."

NEVINS HAS WRITTEN BOOKS ON THE FORD MOTOR CO. AND JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER--WITH COMPLETE COOPERATION, HE SAID, ON THE PART OF THE FAMILIES.

HE ALSO INSTITUTED AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY THE ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM OF TAPE-RECORDED INTERVIEWS WITH PERSONS WHOSE RECOLLECTIONS HAVE HISTORICAL VALUE.

NEVINS SAID THE MOST CHEERFUL ASPECT OF HIS PROFESSION IS THAT "HISTORY IS SELLING AS NEVER BEFORE--AT A RATE THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN UNTHINKABLE 25 YEARS AGO."

THE PRINCIPAL REASONS, HE SAID, ARE THE SHARPLY RISING EDUCATIONAL LEVEL OF THE AVERAGE AMERICAN AND "BETTER WRITING NOT ONLY BY THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY, BUT BY FREE LANCE WRITERS AND JOURNALISTS TOO. . ."

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