

Author Blasts Jackie

NEW YORK — (UPI) — Bitter recriminations between author William Manchester and the Kennedy family and their supporters ended the truce over the book, "The Death of a President," today.

Manchester himself likened Jacqueline Kennedy to Mao Tse-tung's "inscrutability" and to Marie Antionette's "isolation."

In three of the frankest interviews published to date in the five-week-old controversy, Manchester admitted that he was overwhelmed by Mrs. Kennedy's "incredible" charm when he met with her in 1964 to obtain material for the book.

'INSCRUTABLE'

But he found her attitude toward the finished manuscript unfathomable.

"Mao Tse-tung and Jackie are the two most inscrutable people I know," he said. Then he added:

"It was like she was Marie Antoinette, completely isolated from the world around her by her courtier advisers."

JACKIE'S VIEW

Manchester was quoted in such publications as Newsweek, the New York Times, the New York World Journal Tribune and the New York Post.

He said Mrs. Kennedy took the attitude that anyone who

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opposed her would become publicly unpopular.

She brought suit last Dec. 16 to halt publication of the book by Harper & Row and serialization by Look magazine with this in mind, he said.

"Unless I run off with Eddie Fisher, the people will think that anyone who is in a fight with me is a rat," he quoted her as saying.

Manchester's comments were challenged by former presidential aide Richard Goodwin, who represented Mrs. Kennedy in reading and making revisions of the manuscript.

'TASTELESS'

In San Francisco, Goodwin said Manchester's account "bears no relationship" to what really happened.

"The book is, in part, tasteless and gratuitously insulting to President Johnson and, for that matter, to the memory of the late President," Goodwin said.

"In an effort to make the book both accurate and fair . . . the publishers and representatives of the Kennedy family recommended many changes. As a result almost one-third of the book was modified."

According to Manchester only 3600 words were cut — about one percent of the text.

FIRST CHAPTER

One of the deletions, a friend of the Kennedys said today, was the first chapter, which the Kennedys alleged painted a picture of President Johnson as "a man of violence."

It described, the source said, a deer hunting trip on the LBJ Ranch that Kennedy went on reluctantly. 1

"It showed Johnson as a man of violence who loved to kill deer and would force others to do the same," the source said.

"It had nothing to do with the assassination, since it occurred three years before," he added.

RECOLLECTIONS

It was not immediately clear to what extent Manchester had initially described the deer incident. He mentions what appear to be Mrs. Kennedy's recollections of it in the second installment of the Look serialization, which is on sale today.

Manchester said the Kennedys appeared to approve of the project until Look magazine bought serialization rights for \$665,000.

Mrs. Kennedy, he said, was "concerned over the sum of money and what she felt was commercialization."

Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, according to Manchester, greeted the news of the Look deal with the comment:

"Gee, that's great — that's a record isn't it?"

But soon his attitude changed, too, and he "was irrational and concerned with the money now," Manchester said.

The author said he expects to net \$500,000, after taxes, on the book.

"That is not a lot of money in light of my three years of agony," he said.

Manchester said one person reminded him that he was "destroying any chance you might have to become a special assistant to the (future) President" by opposing THE Kennedys' demands for radical cuts in the book.

He observed that the Kennedys are probably "a part of my past, not my future."