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BY RAYMOND PALMER

LONDON, APRIL 17 (AP)-WILLIAM MANCHESTER, AUTHOR OF THE CONTROVERSIAL BOOK "DEATH OF A PRESIDENT," SAID TODAY HE EXPECTS TO MAKE \$300,000 TO \$400,000 FROM THE BOOK.

HE TOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE THE KENNEDY LIBRARY IS EXPECTED TO RECEIVE \$5 MILLION TO \$10 MILLION FROM THE EARNINGS OF THE BOOK, DEALING WITH THE ASSASSINATION OF JOHN F. KENNEDY.

MANCHESTER SAID HIS EARNINGS WERE "QUITE ADEQUATE" CONSIDERING THE TASK HAD TAKEN HIM THREE YEARS.

"I SPENT BETWEEN \$20,000 AND \$25,000 IN EXPENSES DURING MY RESEARCH," MANCHESTER SAID. "UNDER THE TERMS OF MY AGREEMENT WITH THE KENNEDY FAMILY I CAN CLAIM TO BE REIMBURSED FOR THESE EXPENSES BUT I DO NOT INTEND TO DO SO."

MANCHESTER SAID THIS WAS THE ONLY NEWS CONFERENCE HE WAS GIVING AND IN DOING SO WAS HONORING AN AGREEMENT REACHED LAST YEAR WITH HIS BRITISH PUBLISHERS, MICHAEL JOSEPH, LTD. THEY ARE PAYING \$100,000 FOR THE BRITISH AND COMMONWEALTH RIGHTS TO "DEATH OF A PRESIDENT," WHICH WAS PUBLISHED HERE TODAY.

"BOOKS ARE IMPORTANT, NOT THEIR AUTHORS," HE SAID. "I SHOULDN'T BE HOLDING A PRESS CONFERENCE. I'M NOT A PUBLIC FIGURE. I'M A WRITER."

MANCHESTER SAID HE UNDERTOOK THE WRITING OF THE KENNEDY BOOK RELUCTANTLY.

"I WAS CHOSEN FOR THE JOB BY MRS. KENNEDY. I DON'T SEE HOW I COULD HAVE REFUSED HER. I THINK IT HAD TO BE DONE."

HE SAID OPPOSITION FROM THE KENNEDYS BEGAN ONLY WHEN THEY HEARD OF LARGE SUMS BEING OFFERED FOR SERIALIZATION RIGHTS OF THE BOOK --WHICH WERE ASSIGNED TO MANCHESTER UNDER THEIR AGREEMENT.

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"AT THAT STAGE, MRS. KENNEDY FELT THAT THE PROJECT WAS BEING COMMERCIALIZED AND FELT THESE RECEIPTS SHOULD GO TO THE KENNEDY LIBRARY. IN RETURN, I WAS TO HAVE THE FULL RECEIPTS FROM THE BOOK. I DID NOT AGREE, SINCE THIS WOULD BE A BREACH OF OUR ORIGINAL AGREEMENT AND SECONDLY THAT IF I HAD FULL RECEIPTS FROM THE BOOK I WOULD WIND UP MAKING MORE MONEY THAN THE KENNEDY LIBRARY, WHICH WAS THE OPPOSITE OF OUR INTENTION. THE MAIN BENEFICIARY OF THE BOOK WAS TO BE THE KENNEDY LIBRARY," SAID MANCHESTER.

HE ADDED THAT HE WAS AT ALL TIMES READY TO ACCEPT MRS. KENNEDY'S PERSONAL CHANGES IN THE MANUSCRIPT. WHAT HE OBJECTED WAS MAKING POLITICAL CHANGES.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION, MANCHESTER SAID A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE KENNEDY FAMILY WHO ASKED FOR THESE POLITICAL CHANGES TOLD HIM THEY HAD TO LOOK TO THE POLITICAL FUTURE OF ROBERT F. KENNEDY, THE DEAD PRESIDENT'S BROTHER.

"I RESISTED MAKING THOSE CHANGES--AS ANY REPORTER WOULD," MANCHESTER ASSERTED.

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