

Robert Kennedy's Account of Missile

By HARRY GILROY

A 25,000-word account of the Cuban missile crisis written last year by Robert F. Kennedy was sold yesterday by the Senator's estate to the McCall Corporation for an advance of \$1-million. It will appear in the November issue of McCall's, which will be on newsstands Oct. 22.

The memoir was written at the request of The New York Times Magazine. Mr. Kennedy began work on a magazine article in April, 1967, but in October informed The Times that he did not wish to release his account because it might be suggested that he was using it in a bid for the Presidency.

Norman Cousins, editor in chief of the McCall Corporation described the \$1-million advance at a news conference as probably the highest amount ever paid for a manuscript of that length.

The sale was announced at the Fifth Avenue Club, 10 East 56th Street, by Henry E. Bowes, president of McCall's, and Theodore C. Sorensen, lawyer for the estate's executors — Mrs. Robert F. Kennedy, Senator Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts and Mrs. Patricia Kennedy Lawford, widows, brother and sister of the slain Senator, who was Attorney General during the crisis.

Mr. Sorensen, who was Special Assistant to President Kennedy, indicated that there were facts in the manuscript that had not been printed before, notably in regard to correspondence between President Kennedy and Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev of the Soviet Union.

Asked if the memoir indicated the then Attorney General regarded the settlement of the crisis — when the missile sites in Cuba were dismantled and the missiles returned to the Soviet Union — as "a victory for the United States," Mr. Sorensen said: "He regarded it as a victory for world peace."

When asked for details in the article, Mr. Sorensen brushed aside questions, saying: "We will all have to wait with bated breath to read McCall's."

He said Mr. Kennedy had kept detailed notes on the crisis and had used the material when writing his account. Mr. Sorensen said he wished to emphasize that Mr. Kennedy had written the account himself and had never even edited it. Mr. Sorensen added that he had done some slight editing.

Mr. Sorensen, who is an editor at large of the Saturday Review, a McCall's magazine, said he had offered the manuscript to other magazine and



The New York Times

Theodore C. Sorensen, attorney for estate of Robert F. Kennedy, and Norman Cousins, rear, editor in chief of McCall Corporation, tell of sale of Senator's document.

book publishers as well as McCall's. He declined to give details other than that there had been "a rise in bidding from the start."

The contract was completed late Wednesday night. Mr. Sorensen took the contract to Washington for the executors' signatures yesterday morning and returned to New York with the document in the afternoon.

Mr. Cousins said the magazine began to set type on the article Wednesday morning "when it appeared probable that a deal would be reached." He said the issue would have a normal press run of 8.5-million copies.

In addition to the \$1-million advance, the Kennedy estate will share in the sale of subsidiary rights, which McCall will handle. These rights include book publication, serial-

ization, films, television and recordings.

Two New York book publishers are reported to be heavy bidders for the manuscript, but Mr. Bowes said: "The contest for such rights is only beginning this minute."

The contract for the manuscript, he said, gives the Kennedy estate approval of advertising copy, excerpts for serialization, photographs and other publishing details. Differences will be arbitrated by Mr. Cousins and Mr. Sorensen.

Mr. Cousins said after the news conference that he had not known until yesterday morning that the manuscript began as an article for The Times Magazine.

The article was intended for publication in The Times Magazine of Oct. 22, 1967, the fifth anniversary of President

Kennedy's announcement that Soviet missile sites were being prepared in Cuba.

Senator Kennedy indicated aides that he would write the articles and asked The Times

for suggestions on topics to be covered. On April 27, he expressed through Frank Mankiewicz, his press secretary, general agreement with an outline submitted by The Times Magazine.

The outline recommended a length of 3,500 words, or up to 5,000 words. On Aug. 22, 1967, the Senator's office reported he was working on the article with some 5,000 words on paper and the story only half told.

In October, after repeated inquiries, the Magazine was informed by Mr. Mankiewicz that the Senator was reluctant to release the article. The Times had been told that the article was 25,000 words long and was preparing to devote most of the issue of Oct. 22 issue to presenting it.

Senator Kennedy sent word that he felt publication of the article might make him appear

to be using his inside knowledge of events in President Kennedy's administration to advance himself for the 1968 Presidential nomination.

The article was found among Senator Kennedy's effects after his death. Two months ago, The Times Magazine sought to find out through Mr. Mankiewicz if the account might now be released.

When Mr. Sorensen said this week that the manuscript was for sale, The Times declined to bid.

Asked yesterday what disposition would be made of the proceeds, Mr. Sorensen said that the money would go to the executors.

"It is their duty," he said, "to maximize the estate, particularly when there are 11 minor children." He was referring to the fact that Mrs. Kennedy is expecting a child in addition to the 10 in the family.