

MANCH

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WITH KENNEDY BOOK

MIDDLETOWN, CONN., DEC. 14 (AP)-WILLIAM MANCHESTER SAID TODAY HE DOES NOT THINK MRS. JOHN F. KENNEDY HAS SEEN HIS BOOK ABOUT THE DEATH OF THE LATE PRESIDENT.

"I HAVE CONFIDENCE IN THE BOOK," HE SAID. "I THINK IT WILL STAND ON ITS OWN. I ASK ONLY THAT PEOPLE GIVE IT A CHANCE."

MRS. KENNEDY HAS SERVED A SUMMONS ON LOOK MAGAZINE AND THE PUBLISHING FIRM OF HARPER & ROW IN AN APPARENT EFFORT TO BLOCK PUBLICATION OF MANCHESTER'S BOOK, "DEATH OF A PRESIDENT."

"I DON'T KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT THE LAW," SAID MANCHESTER, WHO WAS MANAGING EDITOR OF THE WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY PRESS IN MIDDLETOWN WHEN HE WAS AUTHORIZED TO WRITE THE BOOK. HE NOW IS ON A LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

"IT'S RATHER WELL KNOWN," HE SAID, "THAT I WOULDN'T HAVE TAKEN A STEP IN THE PUBLICATION OF THIS BOOK WITHOUT THE APPROVAL OF ROBERT KENNEDY, SPEAKING AS A MEMBER OF THE KENNEDY FAMILY."

ASKED WHETHER HE HAD AGREED TO SHOW THE BOOK TO MRS. KENNEDY PRIOR TO ITS PUBLICATION, MANCHESTER SAID HE THOUGHT THAT THIS WAS "GETTING INTO AN AREA OF WRITTEN AGREEMENTS. THAT SORT OF THING SHOULD BE SETTLED BY AN ATTORNEY."

IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION WHETHER MRS. KENNEDY HAS SEEN THE BOOK, MANCHESTER SAID, "NOT TO MY KNOWLEDGE."

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