

\$1 Million for Kennedy Book

New York

Dell Books offered the Harper and Row publishing firm \$1 million yesterday for the reprint rights to William Manchester's "The Death of a President."

Helen Meyer, president of the firm, said Harper and Row "had taken note of the offer" but had not yet accepted it.

"We decided to go all the way on this book," said the head of the paperback firm.

The offer was believed to be the highest ever made for reprint rights. Dell's previous top price was \$500,000 paid for the current best seller "The Secret of Santa Vittoria."

United Press

Petition in N. Y.

Why Jackie Wants To Stop That Book

Associated Press

New York

Jacqueline Kennedy appealed to a Manhattan judge yesterday to forbid publication of a controversial book about the assassination of her husband.

Mrs. Kennedy's petition said publication of the book, "Death of a President" by William Manchester, would violate her privacy and destroy her contractual rights.

She has further complained that the book exploits "her emotional state during an interview" with Manchester in early 1964 giving her recollection of the assassination of President Kennedy in Dallas Nov. 22, 1963.

PETITION

In the petition, filed with Supreme Court Justice Saul S. Streit, Mrs. Kennedy claimed publication without her approval would be a breach of an agreement between her and the author.

Judge Streit signed a show-cause order directing Manchester and two publishers to appear on December 27 and explain why he should not issue an injunction against publication.

The publishers are Look magazine, which is reported to have paid \$665,000 for the right to serialize portions of the book starting with its January 10 issue, and Harper & Row, a publishing firm which plans to bring out the full hard-cover version in April.

'CONSENT'

Mrs. Kennedy said in an affidavit supporting her petition that in return for her help in preparing his manuscript, Manchester agreed not to publish until he obtained "my express consent and approval, as to the mode and time and text of any publication."

She said she had not given her consent and in a second supporting affidavit her brother-in-law, Senator Robert F. Kennedy, (Dem-N.Y.) swore that he had not cleared the manuscript either.

Said Mrs. Kennedy in her ten-page affidavit:

"After the death of President Kennedy our family became concerned about the spate of sensational and highly commercialized writings which we knew would appear concerning that event.

"In an attempt to make available to the public at least one work of accuracy and good taste which would be presented in a dignified manner, the family decided to assist defendant Manchester, a recognized author, in the preparation of an account of the circumstances and events surrounding the death of President Kennedy."ap

She said a guarantee that she would have veto rights over the finished product was part of an agreement entered into between Manchester and Senator Kennedy.

Mrs. Kennedy's petition asserted that both publishers had "refused to recognize my rights."

Senator Kennedy said in his affidavit he understood that Manchester and the publishers thought the agreement had been superseded by a telegram he sent Harper & Row on July 28. He denied that such was the case.

The senator said he sent the telegram after "I was told by Harper's representative that Manchester was becoming ill from an obsession with the thought that the book might never be published."

Senator Kennedy quoted his telegram as saying that he had not read the manuscript but "I know of the (late) president's respect for Mr. Manchester as an historian and reporter."

He said the telegram went on to say:

"However, if Mr. Manchester's account is published in segments or excerpts, I would expect that incidents would not be taken out of context or summarized in any way which might distort the acts of, or the events relating to, President Kennedy's death."